Earthian™

1

Art and Story By Yun Kouga

Manga
Fantasy/Romance

Earthian™

Angels are among us. They are scattered across the globe, living in our neighborhoods, observing humanity–the Earthian–in crisis...

Chihaya and Kagetsuya have known each other since their days at school. They are friends...and possibly more. These two angels roam the world, compiling lists of the positive and negative traits of humanity. In the process they become involved in the lives of various humans, full of despair: An astronaut about to venture on a dangerous mission, a sorceress running from the mafia, and a mysterious artificially created human are just a few of those beings who Chihaya puts himself at risk to help, much to Kagetsuya's dismay. But after a meeting of angels, it is discovered that a dreaded disease is plaguing a growing legion of angels. Salvation possibly lies in the fallen angel Lord Seraphim–and as Chihaya and Kagetsuya search to find him, he turns up in the most unlikely of places...

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EARTHIAN

YUN KOUGA

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EARTHIAN

Only **now** comes a time of crisis. The Angels are about to destroy the Earthian, to make them reap what they have sown.

"Angels" first began observing the planet Earth more than 5 billion years ago.

The Earthian call us "Angels."

THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL OBSERVED THE CORRUPTION ON EARTH AND DECIDED TO MEASURE BEHAVIOR OF THE EARTHIAN IN PLUSES AND MINUSES. IF MORE THAN 10,000 MINUSES WERE COUNTED...

WE MAY NEED TO ERADICATE THE EARTHIAN.

...HE DECLARED...

NO...

ANNIHILATE ALL THE EARTHIAN?!

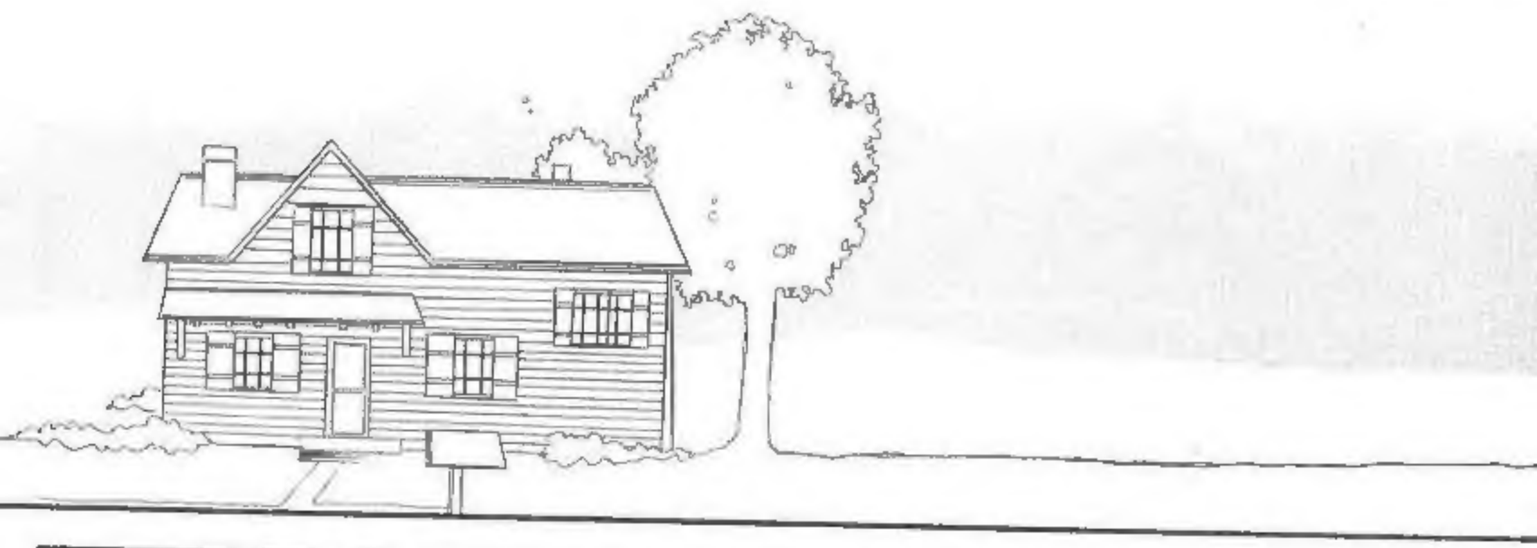
I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP COUNT THE ***PLUSES*** OF THE EARTHIAN!

I WON'T STAND FOR THAT!

AND IF I CAN GATHER MORE THAN 10,000 PLUSES OF THE EARTHIAN, THEY SHALL BE ALLOWED TO LIVE.

EARTHIAN

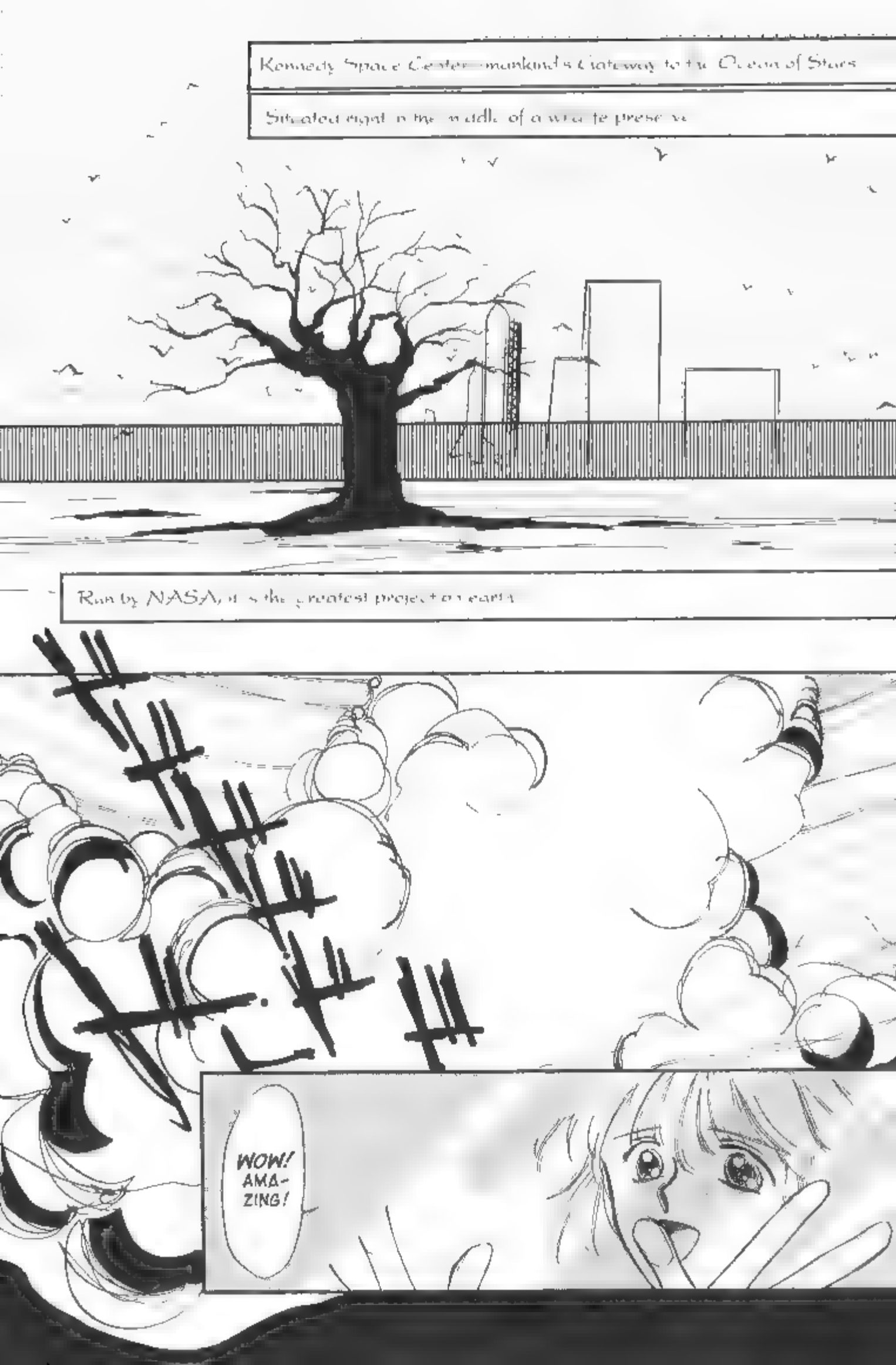
California, U.S.A. / Near the Kennedy Space Center



HA HA HA HA HA
YOU IDIOT! THIS IS HOW YOU WRITE A REPORT, SILLY!
You can't count that on your report!
FLAP
SEE FOR YOUR-SELF.
HEY! K-KAGETSUYA!
GIVE THAT BACK!
LET'S SEE... "THE NICE POLICEMAN HELPED THE OLD WOMAN CROSS THE STREET"?
NEGLIGENCE DURING CONSTRUC-TION CAUSES HIGHWAY ACCIDENT.
AN ATOMIC REACTOR EXPLODED IN JAPAN'S F PREFECTURE, DUE TO THE DELINQUENCY OF THE MANAGE-MENT.

I'M NOT WRONG.
Hmph.
YOU CAN'T JUST GENERAL-IZE LIKE THAT!
YOU'RE WRONG!
N-NO!
WATER POLLUTION IN CHINA'S YELLOW RIVER HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY WORSE.
A CONSPIRACY BY THE CHINESE MAFIA FORCES A UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO DROP OUT OF THE ELECTION.
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH MY WORK? I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THIS FROM A BLACK MUTATION LIKE YOU.
IT'S A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME TO HAVE YOU DOCUMENTING ALL THE "PLUSES."
And you're incompetent.
IGNORANT AND SELFISH BACKSTABBERS. THAT'S WHAT THE EARTHIAN REALLY ARE.
HEY, THAT WAS PRETTY LOW.
I'M JUST SAYING THE TRUTH. YOU ARE A FREAK.
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
HEY! IT'S NOT LIKE I CHOSE TO LOOK LIKE THIS!

TO THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER!
I'M OBSERVING THE SPACE SHUTTLES.
I'M GOING OUT!
JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
JUST BECAUSE YOURS ARE WHITE...
AND YOU'RE BIG...
DON'T TOUCH ME.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO HARSH?
JUST LOOK AT THIS BLACK HAIR. AND THOSE BLACK WINGS.
WAS I TOO HARSH?
ALL THOSE HIGH EXPECTATIONS, WHEN IT'S JUST GOING TO END IN TEARS.
HOW NAIVE CAN YOU BE, CHIHAYA?
I SAW NOTHING GOOD THE LAST TIME I LOOKED INTO THEM.
Plop
NASA, HUH?
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT SPACE SHUTTLES?


Kennedy Space Center—mankind's Gateway to the Ocean of Stars
Situated right in the middle of a wildlife preserve
Run by NASA, it's the greatest project on earth
WOW! AMA-ZING!

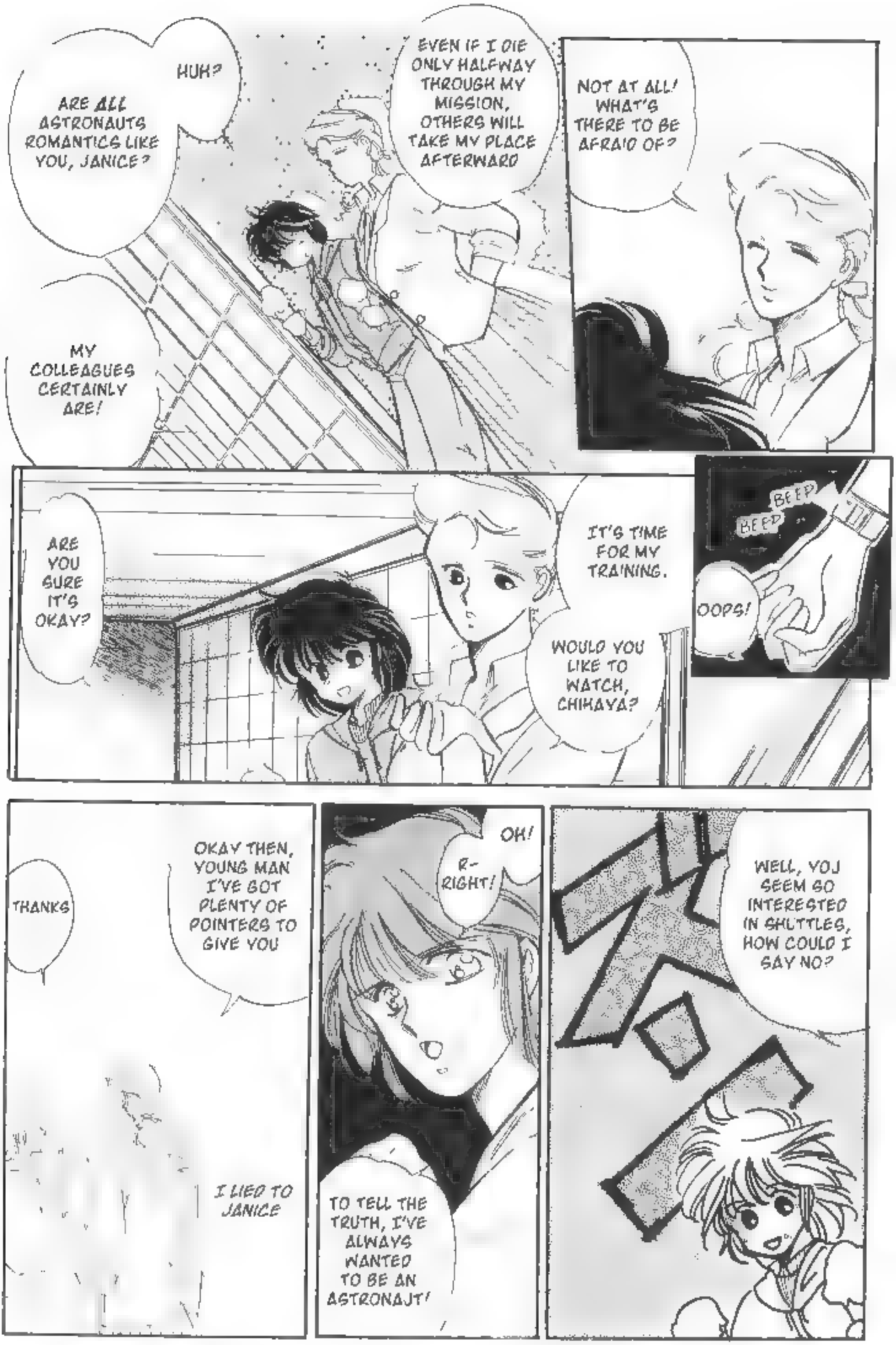
YUP I'M ON THE MISSION IN TWO DAYS
YOU'LL BE FLYING SOON TOO, RIGHT JANICE?
I'M SO LUCKY I GOT TO COME AND WATCH ON ONE OF THE LAUNCH DAYS.
ME TOO
THAT'D BE REPAIRING THE SATELLITE, RIGHT?
I'VE GONE THROUGH TWO YEARS OF INTENSE TRAINING IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEW PROJECT
SO, WHICH ICE CREAM WOULD YOU LIKE?
VANILLA, PLEASE
MY MISSION WILL BE TO GO OUT THERE
AND SET IT ON ITS PROPER COURSE AGAIN
BUT EVER SINCE ITS MAL-FUNCTION, IT'S BEEN FLYING WILDLY OUT OF ORBIT
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE IT WAS FIRST LAUNCHED
THE SOLAR MASTER II A SATELLITE DESIGNED TO MEASURE THE ENERGY OUTPUT OF THE SUN
WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT
IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME HUMANS WILL BE SENT TO WORK IN OUTER SPACE
THIS MISSION HAS A VERY SPECIAL MEANING, YOU KNOW

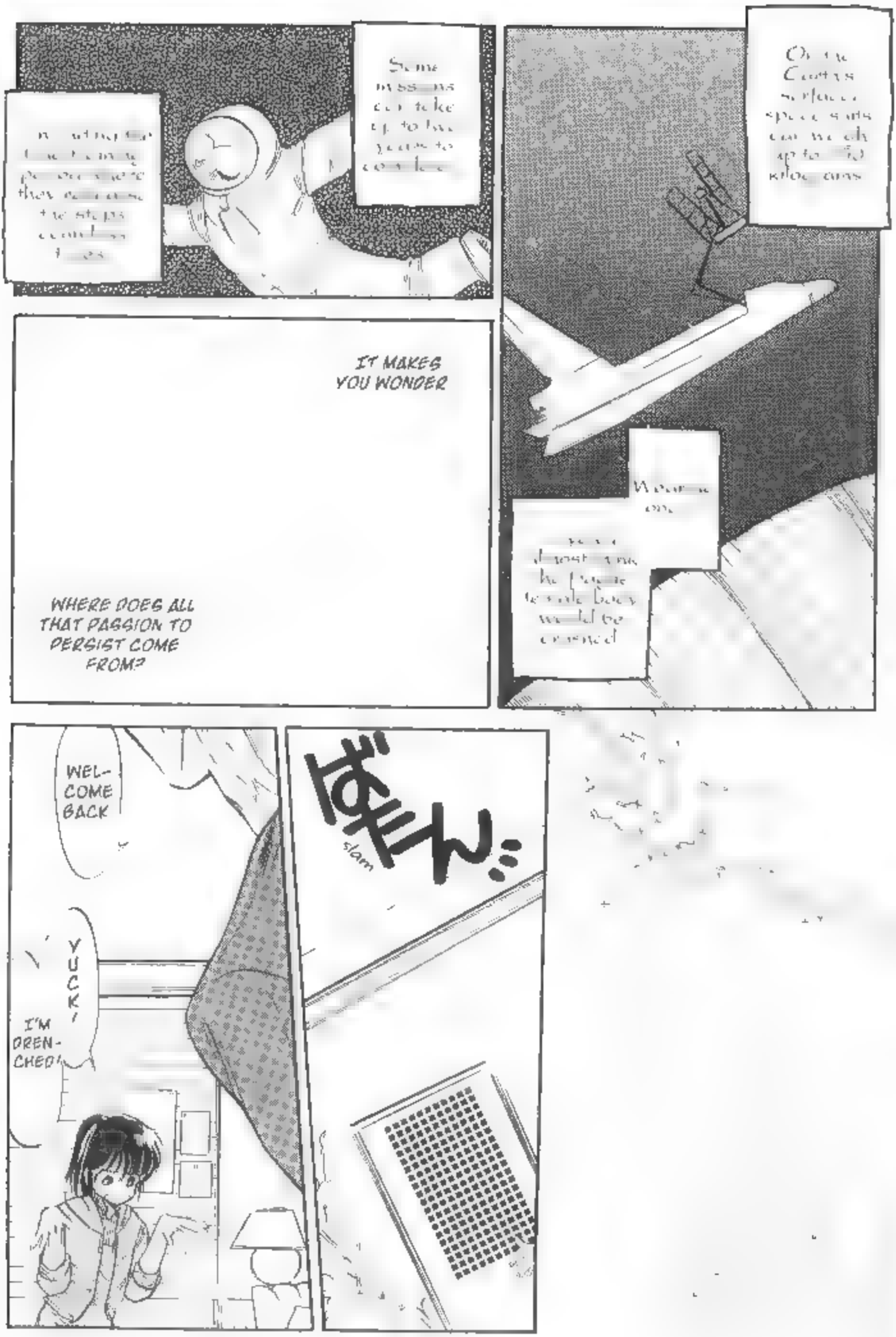
JANICE
I WANT TO HEAR YOU TALK MORE, LAUGH MORE
THE EARTHIAN ARE JOYFUL FASCINATING. UNFORGETTABLE.
I JUST WISH KAGETSUYA COULD SEE THAT TOO.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE FAMOUS WORDS OF THE FIRST MAN IN OUTER SPACE?
"THE DREAM IS ALIVE"
FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT, THE CHALLENGE OF THE FRONTIER HAS NEVER CHANGED
SHOW ME MORE OF YOUR DREAMS.

Whether they're astronauts armed with science in space shuttles or the very first explorers who aimed for the new continent with nothing but a single rifle in hand

Thousands of pioneers were trembling in fear and awe


HUH?
ARE ALL ASTRONAUTS ROMANTICS LIKE YOU, JANICE?
MY COLLEAGUES CERTAINLY ARE!
EVEN IF I DIE ONLY HALFWAY THROUGH MY MISSION, OTHERS WILL TAKE MY PLACE AFTERWARD
NOT AT ALL! WHAT'S THERE TO BE AFRAID OF?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY?
IT'S TIME FOR MY TRAINING.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH, CHIHAYA?
BEEP
BEEP
OOPS!
THANKS
OKAY THEN, YOUNG MAN I'VE GOT PLENTY OF POINTERS TO GIVE YOU
I LIED TO JANICE
OH!
R-RIGHT!
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AN ASTRONAUT!
WELL, YOU SEEM SO INTERESTED IN SHUTTLES, HOW COULD I SAY NO?


IT MAKES YOU WONDER
WHERE DOES ALL THAT PASSION TO PERSIST COME FROM?
WEL-COME BACK
YUCK!
I'M DREN-CHED!
slam

NAH, NOT HUNGRY
I GRABBED A BITE TO EAT WITH JANICE
Off it goes
YOU READY FOR DINNER?
YOU ALREADY MADE DINNER AND DIDN'T EAT?
WHAT?
WH-WH-
HUH?
THAT MEANS YOU WERE WAITING FOR ME?
OH OKAY
HMMMMM? SORRY, I'M NOT LISTENING
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF
Woo hoo!
I GUESS I CAN FIT IN A LITTLE MORE
NO, I JUST WASN'T HUNGRY, THAT'S ALL.
WHY WOULD I GO AND DO SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
We're buddies, right?
HEY, KAGETSUYA, I GOT A QJESTION IF I DIED, WOULD YOJ CONTINUE MY INVESTIGATION FOR ME?
ANYWAY, I COLLECTED SOME DATA ON NASA
Phooey.

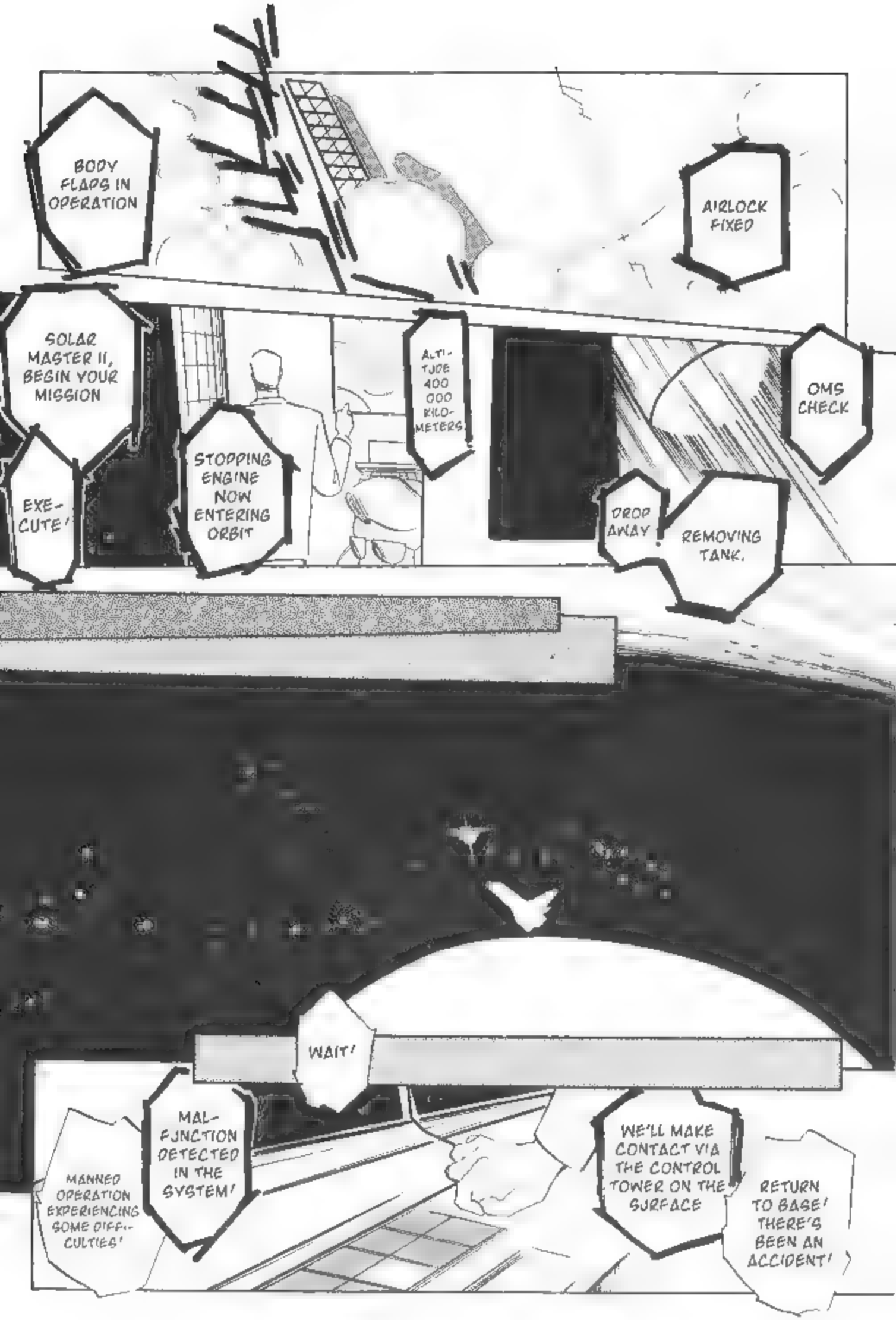
YEAH, I KNOW.
THIS IS ABOUT THE SOLAR MASTER II
THIS
IT WAS NO-THING
Just doing my job.
THAT WAS AWFULLY NICE OF YOU
OH, THANKS.
IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
BUT IN REALITY, IT'S A MILITARY SATELLITE
THE PUBLIC IS LED TO BELIEVE IT'S A SIMPLE WEATHER DATA COLLECTOR
THE SOLAR MASTER II
. IS A SATELLITE USED FOR ASSASSINATION IT CAN PICK OFF A SINGLE PERSON FROM A DISTANCE OF 450,000 KILOMETERS
BJT..
IT IS
I HACKED MY WAY INTO NASA'S MAIN COMPUTER SYSTEM
HEY, CHIHAYA?
I CAN BET IT'S NOT GOING TO BE PRETTY
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY PLAN ON USING IT FOR, BJT
JANICE SAID
B-B-B-BUT
DON'T YOU FIND IT AMAZING?

YOU STILL DON'T GET IT AFTER ALL I'VE TOLD YOU?
IT'S NOT JANICE'S FAULT!
SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
WHEN I WATCH A SHUTTLE LAUNCH
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT HUMANS ARE REALLY CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING ANYTHING
JUST LOOK AT THE IRONY OF IT ALL HOW CAN SHE SAY SUCH SWEET THINGS
WHILE PILOTING A WEAPON OF DESTRUCTION?
ON AN INDIVIDUAL LEVEL, THERE ARE PLENTY OF NICE PEOPLE OUT THERE
BUT ON EARTH, THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY IS LAW THOSE WHO STAY SILENT IN THE FACE OF THAT ARE NOTHING BUT COWARDS
GRIP
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE UP ALREADY?

I STILL THINK YOU'RE WRONG
AM I WRONG?
THE EARTHIAN ARE SO WEAK, IT'S ALMOST PITIFUL AND IT'S CERTAINLY UNFORGIVE-ABLE
THANKS FOR THE MEAL, KAGE-TSUYA
IT WAS REALLY DELICIOUS
WEAKNESS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT YOU NEED FORGIVENESS FOR!
THEY KNOCK SPARROWS' NESTS FROM TELEPHONE POLES JUST TO PREVENT POWER FAILURES
WHAT EXCUSE DO HUMANS HAVE FOR THAT?
SLAM
WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS?
HOW CAN HE BE SO PERSISTENT?!

IT'S NOT THAT I WANT TO FIGHT WITH HIM.
IT'S EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE I REALLY LIKE HIM
WHY DON'T YOU BRING YOUR FRIEND HERE SOMETIME?
YOU TWO ARE PRETTY CLOSE, RIGHT?
What should I do Janice?
CAN'T CHICKEN OUT NOW
THE BEST THING TO DO IS COME TO A COMPROMISE
YOU MEAN AT THE KENNEDY SPACE CENTER?
HEY, KAGETSUYA, YOU FREE TOMORROW?
I WAS THINKING WE COULD GO WATCH THE SHUTTLE LAUNCH

COME ON! FOLLOW ME!
SYSTEMS ALL CLEAR
LAUNCHING PREPARATION COMPLETE
I DIDN'T COME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO, JUST TO LET YOU KNOW
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, MAKING THINGS DIFFICULT
ONE MINUTE 'TIL LAUNCH.
20
COMMENCING COUNTDOWN NOW.


BODY FLAPS IN OPERATION
AIRLOCK FIXED
SOLAR MASTER II, BEGIN YOUR MISSION
ALTITUDE 400 000 KILOMETERS.
OMS CHECK
EXECUTE!
STOPPING ENGINE NOW ENTERING ORBIT
DROP AWAY
REMOVING TANK.
WAIT!
MANNED OPERATION EXPERIENCING SOME DIFFICULTIES!
MALFUNCTION DETECTED IN THE SYSTEM!
WE'LL MAKE CONTACT VIA THE CONTROL TOWER ON THE SURFACE
RETURN TO BASE! THERE'S BEEN AN ACCIDENT!

WE'RE EXPE-RIENCING A MAL-FUNCTION
DON'T PUSH IT! RETURN TO BASE IMMEDIATE-LY!
IT'S ALL RIGHT! CONTINUE WITH THE MISSION! I CAN DO THIS!
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO WATCH THE SHUTTLE'S ORBIT ON THE MAIN LOBBY'S TV
THIS WAY! THIS WAY!
YOU'RE DRIFTING! COME BACK!
IT'S NO GOOD!
JANICE!
IT'S ALREADY ENTERED OUTER SPACE!
LOOK!
THEY'D NEVER MAKE IT IN TIME! WE'RE LOSING HER!
CAN'T WE GET ANYONE OUT THERE?!
THE AIR TANK'S LEAKING!
OXYGEN LEVELS ARE DROPPING!
CRASH

THA DUMP
HUH?
JANICE! JANICE, COME IN!
IT'S NO GOOD
JANICE!
WE'RE LOSING THE SIGNAL!
SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING! WE GOTTA SAVE HER!
THA DUMP
THA DUMP
CHIHAYA? WHAT'S IT?
THA DUMP
SOMEBODY SAVE ME! PLEASE!
THA DUMP
IT'S JANICE! I CAN SENSE HER!
JANICE!!

CHI-HAYA
SHE'S DEAD
JANICE?
NO! IT CAN'T BE!
LOOK, IT'S THE SOLAR MASTER II
IT'S STILL WORK-ING
JANICE, IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?
WHY?

B-B-B-BJT, WHAT ABOUT JANICE?
STOP CRY-ING!
REMEMBER, THIS SATELLITE
IS A MILESTONE FOR THE EARTHIAN.
IT'S PROOF THAT THE EARTHIAN CAN GO ANYWHERE, EVEN THE FAR REACHES OF SPACE
I'LL ADMIT THAT YOU CAN MARK THAT DOWN AS A PLUS FOR THEM
SO DON'T WASTE YOUR TEARS.

The dream is alive.

DON'T CRY
WHICH ICE CREAM WOULD YOU LIKE?
JANICE
CHI-HAYA
HEY, JANICE
ARE ALL ASTRONAUTS ROMANTICS LIKE YOU?

And the food's delicious! Kagetsuya's totally getting into Chinese cuisine!

Here on Earth, it seems that I look very Japanese, so I'm passing myself off as a Japanese citizen. (And Kagetsuya is British, for the same reason.)

Dear Archangel Michael,

How are you doing? It's Chihaya. I'm doing fine! Right now, Kagetsuya and I are in Hong Kong. It's really small and there are tons of people!

Enclosed in this envelope is my latest report, so. .

..please read it! It's the report for pluses.

The "Hong Kong Chinese" has
Those who flocked to the city from Mainland China only see there commitment to the homeland
Hong Kong's history has
MUST BE THE SAU FOR THE HEAD OF THE WAKI HOUSEHOLD
WHY ALL THE FIREWORKS?
ANOTHER OVER-THE-TOP PERFORMANCE, THAT'S FOR SURE

Sou = Celebration of one's 60th birthday
Woo hoo!
HURRY! BRING MORE SAKE FOR THE DRAGON GOD!
AND DON'T BE STINGY!
This is a party, remember?!
WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO US.
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ZOU-DAISAU.
YOU KNOW WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO GET CLOSE TO THE WAKI
YOU THINK WE'LL GET SOMETHING TOO?
WHAT UTTER NONSENSE!
YAY!
RAN-KAI! DO YOU ANY IDEA WHERE DAINA IS?
YAY!
COME HERE RAN-KAI! FOR A MOMENT!
WOOO!
I WAS HOPING TO HAVE OUR PRIESTESS PRESENT AT THE CELEBRATION
CALL FOR DAINA AT ONCE
YES, MY LORD?
WHY TODAY OF ALL DAYS?!
I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS, BUT DAINA SAID SHE WASN'T FEELING VERY WELL
LOOK! IT'S DAINA!
DAINA!
I TRUST YOU ARE AWARE OF WHAT HAPPENED TO HER BROTHER
WHAT?!

IT'S DAINA!
DAINA!
THE PRIEST-ESS!
DAINA!
BE SILENT AT ONCE!
DAINA!
WHO MURDERED MY BROTHER?!
WHICH ONE OF YOU KILLED HIM?!

DAINA
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO KILLED HIM ANYMORE
HMP...
IT WAS THE DECISION OF THE ENTIRE WAKI FAMILY.
I KNOW THAT ALREADY
BUT WHO KILLED MY BROTHER?! AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED NOW
HE HAD NOTHING BUT EVIL INTENT FOR YOU
RANKAI
WERE YOU THE ONE WHO KILLED HIM?
DID YOU MURDER HIM?
AND TELL ME
JUST HOW...
I SHALL END YOUR LIFE THE SAME WAY YOU ENDED HIS!
DAINA
N-NO! YOU'RE WRONG!
IT...
IT WASN'T ME!

I SUGGEST YOU ALL FIND YOURSELVES A NEW PRIESTESS
DAINA! WAIT! NO--!
IF LOVE IS EVIL, THEN I'M THE EVIL ONE!
I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED MY BROTHER!
EVIL INTENT, YOU SAY?!
DON'T LIE TO ME!
WHO'S THE EVIL ONE?!
I WILL PROTECT THE WAKE NO MORE
I WILL PRAY TO THE DRAGON GOD NO MORE
AA AR GH!
DAINA!!
DAINA!
PLEASE! CALM YOURSELF!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

Ergh! I can't take it anymore!
Hong Kong Island
Norm Point
CHIHAYA!
I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH YOU!!
ギィ
ギャ
ギャイ
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL UPSET FOR?! IT WAS YOUR FAULT TO BEGIN WITH!!
OH, SHUT UP!
And quit talking back to me
I'M NEVER SPEAKING TO YOU AGAIN! AND YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT DINNER!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WENT AHEAD AND READ MY REPORT WITHOUT EVEN ASKING!!

GUESS IT WAS ALSO MY FAULT FOR GETTING ON HIS CASE

STILL, I DON'T LIKE THE FEELING OF LEAVING THINGS UNRESOLVED LIKE THIS.

AT LEAST IT'D MAKE ME FEEL BETTER
ERRRRGH! MAYBE I BETTER APOLOGIZE AFTER ALL.
Though somehow, that doesn't seem that fair to me

IF HE, A HIGH-CLASS WHITE ANGEL
...EVER COMPLAINED HOME TO EDEN
THEY'D NEVER LISTEN TO MY SIDE OF THE STORY
EVERY TIME WE CLASH, IT'S BECAUSE OF MY COMPLEX
KAGE-TSUYA!
I WAS JUST THINKING, BUT MAY--
GASP!
NO NO NO! THIS IS NO TIME TO GET WEAK IN THE KNEES!
I'LL GET KAGETSUYA TO UNDER-STAND THE EARTHIAN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!
THE EARTHIAN? WHO NEEDS 'EM?

--BE
I'
DINNER
WH-
WH-
WHAT?
GLARE
O-OH! OKAY LET'S SEE THEN .. HOW ABOUT SHRIMP GYOUZA WITH CHASHUUMAN AND CHICKEN CLAWS?
BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT!
UH UH I'LL HAVE ANY-THING!
I WON'T MAKE ANYTHING BUT CHINESE FOOD, JUST SO YOU KNOW
WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR DINNER?
ALL RIGHT! YOU GOT IT!
I SWEAR, IT'S THAT WEAK ATTITUDE THAT GETS ME THE MOST!

YOU EAT A LOT, SO I HAVE PLENTY OF REASONS TO COOK
THAT'S ALL
I CAN STILL MAKE DINNER WITHOUT TALKING TO YOU
DON'T BE STUPID
I I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO TALK TO ME AGAIN
.....
Aah. maybe he's not such a bad guy after all
YOU SURE HAVE GOOD TASTE IN FOOD
DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO PLEASE YOU
Oolong flavored jelly!
Eight vegetable soup
Meat Chirmaki!
Squid curry!
Fish ramen!

"THE PLANET 'EARTH' IS INDEED A STRANGE PLACE."

CLICK

"IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND HOW THERE CAN BE SO MANY INCONSISTENCIES IN SUCH A SMALL PLACE. ALL IN ALL, VERY INEFFICIENT."

KUH-CLICK

CLICK

CLICK

BEEEEP

BEEP

CLICK

BEEP

"FOR EXAMPLE, THE CURRENCY USED IN THE CITY OF HONG KONG, WHERE WE ARE CURRENTLY SETTLED, AND OUR PREVIOUS RESIDENCY IN CALIFORNIA ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO STANDARD FOR THE RATES."

"EVEN THE LANGUAGES SPOKEN DIFFER."

"SIMPLY PUT, IT IS A PRIMITIVE PLACE THAT HAS NOT ORGANIZED A STANDARD SYSTEM."

THE WAY I SEE IT, ALL THE UNIQUE CULTURES OF EACH COUNTRY ARE WHAT HELP TO MAKE THIS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE!

I THINK WE SHOULD GO SEE SOME OF THE SIGHTS!
AFTER WE CAME ALL THIS WAY TO HONG KONG-- I MEAN, EARTH.
HMM.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHAT?! ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
WELL, I GUESS I CAN SEE THAT THERE ARE SOME PLUSES ABOUT THIS PLACE
And just who's looking at whose report?
TH THAT'S NOT IT
Wel that technically is a 000 years of Chinese history.
SNIF SNIF
Don't cry it's just a joke
TAKE CHINESE FOOD FOR EXAMPLE
COME ON! WE'RE GOING OUT! CAN'T WASTE YOUR WHOLE DAY SITTING IN FRONT OF THE MONITOR!
CHI-HAYA?!

HEY!
CHI-HAYA!
WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN TO ABERDEEN YET!
OOH! STILL GOTTA CLIMB MT. VICTORIA! Says here the view's worth a million bucks!
ACK
HUH?
OOOH! WHAT A CUTIE! COME PLAY WITH US, SWEET CHEEKS ♡
Hi/21.
OOPS!
BUMP
BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON, GOT IT? You really are hopeless.
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO LEAVE A PERSON ALONE AND LET HIM WORK IN PEACE?
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND YOU'RE THE ONE LOOKING FOR CLUES, AND IT'S MY JOB TO LOOK FOR MINJSES.
.....
♪
Still came along anyway
Not listening

S-SORRY, MISS!
YOU OKAY?
HMMM.. WONDER IF SHE'S CHINESE SORTA STANDS OJT A BIT
You should be more careful too, Kagetsuya.
I DIDN'T SAY WE SHOJLD BE CARE-FUL
I'm talking about you.
BUT WHY SHOJLD WE BE THE ONES TO BE CAREFUL?
OH NO! THAT'S HOR-RIBLE!
THE MOST COMMON CRIMES IN THIS CITY ARE RAPE AND FORCED PROSTITUTION
BETTER WATCH YOJR BACK
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

murmur
STOP IT! NO!
IT'S THAT GIRL FROM BE-FORE!
THAT'S NOT VERY FUNNY, YOU KNOW
I know.
HOMO-SEXUALITY IS A CRIME IN EDEN
IT'S WRONG
EEEEEK!
DION'T ANYBODY TELL YOU
Why do I always have to be the one to—
KAGE-TSUYA!!

RUN, CHIHAYA!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
ドドド
A LITTLE LESS ROUGH, PLEASE?
SAVE IT FOR LATER
ドン
IT'S NOT NICE TO HIT LADIES!
--do this!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
PHEW, THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!
I DON'T THINK THEY FOLLOWED US
Sure didn't see that one coming!
HUFF

THE LEAST YOU COULD SAY IS "THANKS"
JUST WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?
UM, EXCUSE ME, BUT
WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HER
EXCUSE ME?
HELL-OOOO?
STARE
PSST, I DON'T THINK SHE'S FEELING VERY WELL.
WELL, CONSIDERING WHAT SHE JUST GOT OUT OF
.....
I think we should invite her back to our place for some tea!
Don't get involved in other peoples lives. It's just going to cause trouble.
DAMMIT! (I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS)

THERE'S SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT HER
SO
WHAT WERE YOU DOING BACK THERE?
YOU SURE GOT LONG HAIR!
Hey hey
ARE THOSE REALLY CHINESE CLOTHES?
IS THERE SOME SPECIAL REASON WHY?
Hmm
YOU HUNGRY?
MUTTER
WHAT ARE YOU, A MONKEY?
WHAT'S WITH THIS WOMAN?
SHE MUST NOT KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THIS SORT OF THING
SILENCE
Did I say some thing wrong?
GOOONG

KAGE-TSUYA!
Well, you're the expert on that!
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME WITH HER, CHIHAYA SHE HAS NO MANNERS
I'M GOING OUT TO DO SOME SHOPPING!
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THAT GIRL!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

IT'S THOSE MEN FROM BEFORE-- WHOA!
REMEMBER! SHE LOOKS ABOUT 15 OR 16 WITH LONG HAIR!
YES, I'M SURE IT WAS HER!
HUH?!
ARE YOU SURE THEY WENT AROUND HERE?
WERE THEY TRYING TO FOLLOW US?!
YES! I'M CERTAIN OF IT!
BUT WHY THE WAKI?
THAT BADGE! THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT!
THEY'RE THE LARGEST SECRET SOCIETY IN THE HONG KONG BLACK MARKET!
IT'S THE SYMBOL OF THE WAKI FAMILY!
They were listed in my computer

I THINK WE MAY HAVE
GOTTEN OURSELVES MIXED UP IN SOMETHING DANGEROUS.
NEXT HERO: CHIHAYA
I didn't draw him this way in this chapter but I thought I'd add him in here, just so you don't forget what he looks like as an Angel.
Huh? Really?
Little monkey!
●HONG KONG CHINESE 1 Fin

HONG KONG CHINESE PART 2

Her name is Dana
That's all we know
HEY! HEY! I WAS JUST THINKIN'.
YOU DON'T THINK SHE MIGHT BE A VEGETARIAN, DO YOU?
SCRUB
SCRUB

VEGETARIAN?!
Scary
CLNCH
SHE'S GOT TO BE THE PICKIEST EATER I'VE EVER MET!
HOW COULD ANYONE REJECT FOOD THAT SOMEONE WORKED SO HARD TO PREPARE!
WHY WON'T YOU EAT ANYTHING?
OR MAYBE YOU'RE REALLY JUST NOT HUNGRY?
He's sure the type to hold a grudge

I WON'T PUT ANYTHING IN MY MOUTH THAT WAS MADE BY THE HANDS OF HUMBLE FOLK
SORRY TO DISILLUSION YOU, BUT I'M NO "HUMBLE FOLK."
I HAPPEN TO BE AN ARISTOCRAT BACK AT HOME
HMM? IS THAT SO
WELL, CLASS IS AN ILLUSION THAT HUMANS HAVE CREATED IT HAS NO REAL MEANING
A part of those are my thoughts on the subject
WELL, EXCUSE ME FOR NOT BEING ROYALTY!

SEE IF I CARE!
ばん
Kagetsuya
Ka
むかっ?
GRR
WHAT AM I THINKING? I CAN'T GET INTO A FIGHT WITH A WOMAN!
BUT SHE REALLY PISSES ME OFF!
DAINA-CHAN
I BELIEVE THAT YOU WERE IN THE WRONG JUST NOW
コン
DAINA-CHAN? DINNER'S READY.
If this keeps up it'll be a showdown between Kagetsuya and Daina in no time — pistols at dawn
Boy, things are getting complicated

DAINA-CHAN ?
HUH? LOOKS LIKE SHE FELL ASLEEP
AAH, AND AFTER I BROUGHT UP DINNER AND EVERYTHING
OH WELL I'LL JUST WAIT TILL SHE GETS UP
Better eat the ice cream before it melts, though
CHEW
CHEW
Zzzz

BROTHER?
DAINA! THERE YOU ARE!
DAINA...?
I'M HERE!
DAINA?
DAINA? WHERE'D YOU GO?
I'M RIGHT HERE!
BROTHER! HERE! I'M RIGHT HERE!
DAINA!

HEY, YOU OKAY?
WHY COULDN'T I PROTECT HIM ?
OH!
IT'S ..IT'S NOTHING! I'M FINE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
DID YOU HAVE A BAD DREAM?

COME ON NOW I'M SURE SOMETHING HAPPENED
BUT ANYWAY, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A BITE TO EAT?
I WASHED MY HANDS AND EVERYTHING BEFORE MAKING IT!
YOU KNOW, ABOUT KAGE-TSUYA.
HE'S NO HUMBLE FOLK AT ALL.
HE'S REALLY INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL.
.....

I'VE ALWAYS LIKED BLACK HAIR.
. YOU'RE THE PRETTIER ONE
HMM
I THINK
NOT AT ALL
MY OLDER BROTHER ALSO HAD LOVELY BLACK HAIR
ISN'T IT CONSIDERED BAD LUCK?
MY I MEAN, BACK HOME, PEOPLE AREN'T USUALLY BORN WITH B-BLACK HAIR OR BLACK EYES.
STUMBLE STUMBLE
THAT'S WHY I THINK IT'S PRETTY
IT'S TRUE
YES
Lucky!
REALLY?

Aaahm
はぐ
S-SURE! GO AHEAD!
YOU MADE IT, CORRECT?
HUH?
WOULD YOU MIND IF I ATE THIS?
JUMBO
CRASH
ARE THERE NO OTHER
PRIEST-ESSES TO REPLACE DAINA?!
CALL RANKAI AT ONCE!
WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T FOUND DAINA YET?!

KILLING DAINA'S BROTHER? WHAT UTTER NONSENSE!
THAT'S JUST WHAT I SAID!
IN-COMPETENT FOOL!
BUT WE DID IT FOR DAINA'S SAKE!
AND NOW LOOK WHAT HAPPENED!
IT'S YOUR DUTY TO LOOK AFTER HER!
RANKA!!
IS SICK OF ALL THIS, THERE'S NOTHING SHE CAN DO TO CHANGE IT
IT'S BECAUSE YOU TOOK YOJR EYES OFF HER FOR A SECOND THAT THIS HAPPENED!
EVEN IF DAINA
SHE MAY NEVER COME HOME AGAIN

BUT EVEN SO
ANYWAY, JUST GET OJT THERE AND BRING HER BACK AT ONCE!
YES, MY LORD
I NEVER WANTED IT TO COME TO THIS.
WE MAY HAVE DEALT HER A BLOW FROM WHICH SHE CAN NEVER RECOVER.
I DON'T THINK RANKA! CAN HANDLE DAINA MUCH LONGER.
SLAM
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
AS FAR-REACHING AS THE CONNECTIONS OF THE WAKI ARE, WE KNOW OF NO PRIESTESS AS POTENT AS DAINA
THEN, ANOTHER PRIEST-ESS?
NO, OUT OF THE QJESTION

THIS IS MY SECRET
I HAVE THEM ALL OVER MY BODY
THE TATTOOS OF A PRIESTESS.
I'LL SHOW THEM TO YOU, CHIHAYA
PRETTY, AREN'T THEY?
THEY ARE PRETTY!
BUT DIDN'T IT HURT TO GET THEM?
YEAH, A LITTLE I GUESS
BUT I WAS TOTALLY CALM.
BECAUSE MY BROTHER PUT THEM ON ME
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, CHIHAYA.
SHOW ME YOUR SECRET

I'LL SHOW YOU
OKAY, BUT YOU HAVE TO PROMISE NOT TO LAUGH.
Just don't say they look dirty
THIS IS MY SECRET
I'M ONLY ALLOWED TO SHOW THREE PEOPLE YOU'RE THE SECOND PERSON, DAINA

THIS BOY..
HE ISN'T HUMAN.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL! ABSOLUTELY BREATH-TAKING!
PUTTING YOUR HAIR UP LIKE THIS IS THE OFFICIAL STYLE
HOW'S IT LOOK?

I THINK "PRETTY" IS THE BEST WORD THERE IS
MOST GUYS WOULDN'T LIKE TO BE CALLED "BEAUTIFUL" OR "BREATHTAKING"
YOU'RE NOT LIKE OTHER BOYS, YOU KNOW
NOW YOU'RE JUST GETTING SILLY
OR A PRETTY HEART
OR A PRETTY PERSONALITY
OR A PRETTY BODY.
IT'S OKAY TO SAY YOU HAVE A PRETTY FACE
WHERE I COME FROM.
THERE'S NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT IT!
SWWWSH
Sound of his wings fading

I COME FROM SOMEWHERE . FAR, FAR AWAY
ME?
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
JUST WHERE IS YOUR HOME, CHIHAYA?

がじ
grsh
.....
Hmm
.....
EVER HEARD OF SOMETHING CALLED "MANNERS"?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WAIT AT THE ENTRANCE AND RING THE DOORBELL IF YOU WANT TO COME IN
FORGIVE US FOR THE SUDDEN INTRUSION.
BUT WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN HARMING YOU.
YOU'D BETTER NOT! THIS IS MY HOUSE!
Here comes another minus
IF YOU WANT TO TRY SOMETHING, I'M READY FOR YOU!

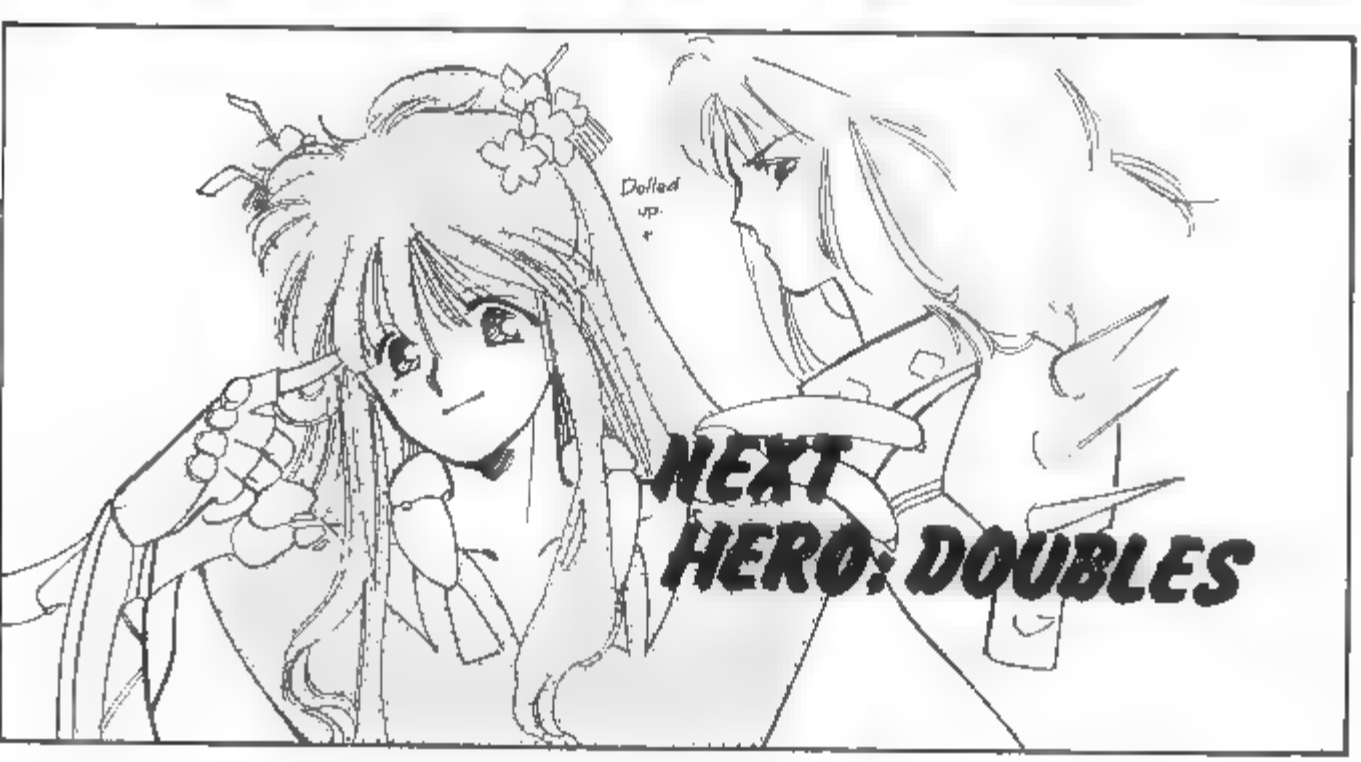
Thank GOODNESS you guys finally came to get her
スタスタ
STRUT STRUT
I'LL SHOW YOU IN
.....
EXCUSE ME?
YOU HEARD ME TAKE HER HOME ALREADY
.....
FINE BY ME.
HAND OVER DAINA IMMEDIATELY
TO BE CONTINUED
YOU'RE COMING BACK WITH US, WHETHER YOU LIKE OR IT NOT
YES
THAT'S WHY I SIMPLY CAN'T GO BACK.
SO THEN YOUR BROTHER DIED?

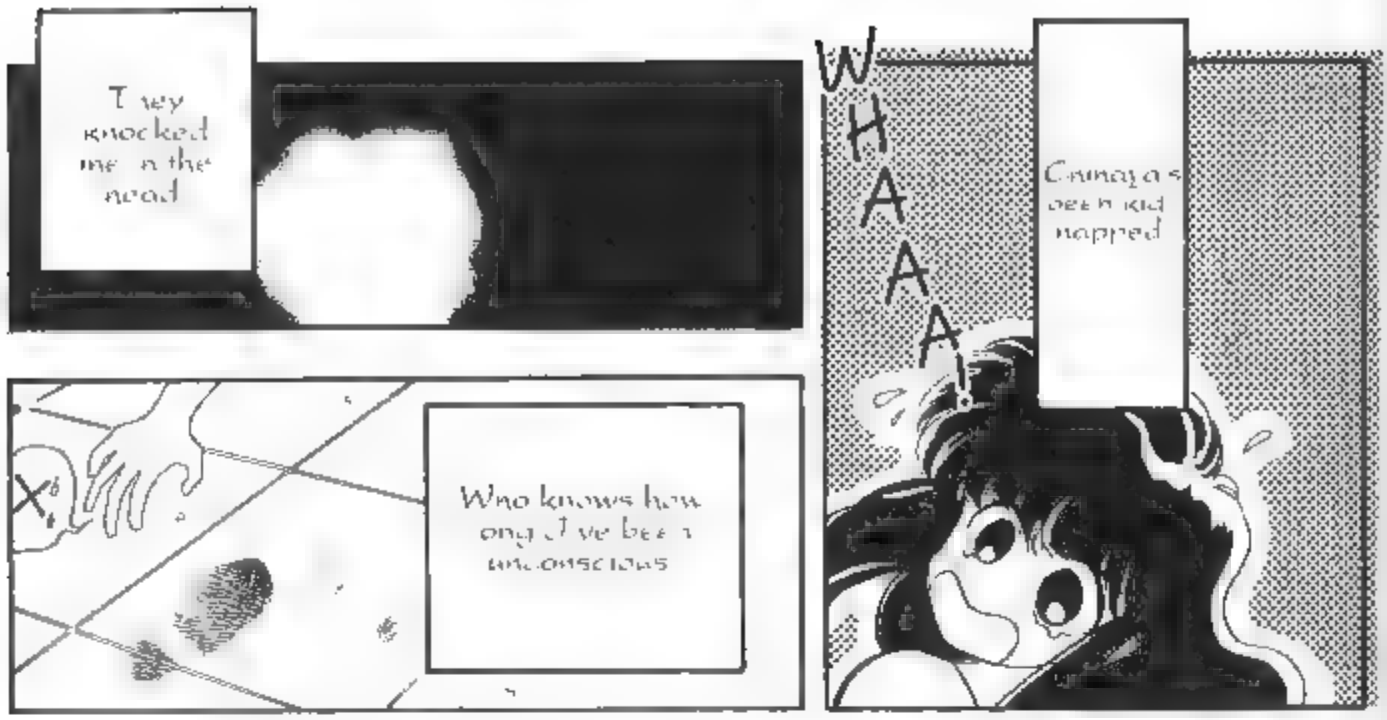
NOW IF YOU HAND OVER DAINA LIKE A GOOD BOY, I PROMISE NOT TO DO ANYTHING
Hmpn!
RAN-KA!
KAGE-TSUYA?!
KAGETSUYA, HOW COULD YOU?!
YUP. JUST DO AS HE SAYS
CHIHAYA, WOULD YOU GIVE IT A REST ALREADY?!
NO! DON'T!
JUST HURRY UP AND GET HER OUT OF HERE!
SHE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH US!
HOW COULD I WHAT?!
Don't turn those puppy dog eyes on me!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
NO! I CAN'T LET THEM--

--TAKE HER!!
CHIHAYA!

WHAT WAS THAT?!
HE HAS THE POWER OF A PRIESTESS!
GRAB BOTH OF THEM AND MOVE OUT!
WHOA!
WE MUST TELL THE LORD OF THIS!
You idiot-
CHI-HAYA!
OW!
STOP THEM, KAGE-TSUYA!
YOU IDIOT!
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T DO THAT IN FRONT OF HUMANS!
YOU'LL BE DEMOTED FOR DOING THAT!
THWACK
KAGE-TSUYA!!

NO! WHAT DO I DO?!
KAGE-TSUYA!


Dolled up.
NEXT HERO: DOUBLES



WELL DONE, KAGETSUYA.

YOU REALLY SCREWED THAT UP GOOD

LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH.
MY BIRDS!
FROM THE FARTHEST CORNERS OF THE EARTH, COME TO ME
GOOD
COME TO ME
THERE'S A GOOD BOY

CHIHAYA'S BEEN TAKEN FROM ME GO OUT AND FIND HIM
YOU KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE, RIGHT?
HE'S THE ANGEL WITH PITCH-BLACK WINGS AND HAIR.

HONG KONG CHINESE PART 3

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO KAGETSUYA? HOPE HE'S OKAY
AND WHAT ABOUT DAINA?
I CAN BARELY UNDERSTAND A WORD OF CANTONESE WHAT'S EVERYBODY TALKING ABOUT?
murmur
WHERE ON EARTH AM I? WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO ME?
murmur
murmur
Should've paid more attention in class
murmur
HE HAS THE SAME POWERS!
murmur
THAT'S RIGHT!
JUST LIKE DAINA!

RAN-KA!
YOU TWO, MAKE THE PREPAR-ATIONS.
PLEASE WAIT! THERE IS NO PROOF THAT DAINA'S POWERS HAVE WEAKENED
IT JUST TAKES TIME, I SWEAR! PLEASE LET ME EXPLAIN TO HER--!
DAINA MAY HAVE LOST HER POWERS AS A PRIESTESS, BUT WE'VE FOUND ANOTHER TO TAKE HER PLACE!
ALTHOUGH HE IS A MALE
HELL, AS LONG AS HE'S GOT THE POWERS, WHO CARES?
SO, SHALL WE--
BRAND HIM
LORD!
WHAT IS IT YOU PLAN TO DO?
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THE SACRED TATTOOS.
NO! YOU MUSTN'T!
THERE IS NO NEED TO BRING IN OUTSIDERS!
YOU DEFY THE PRIDE OF THE WAKI!

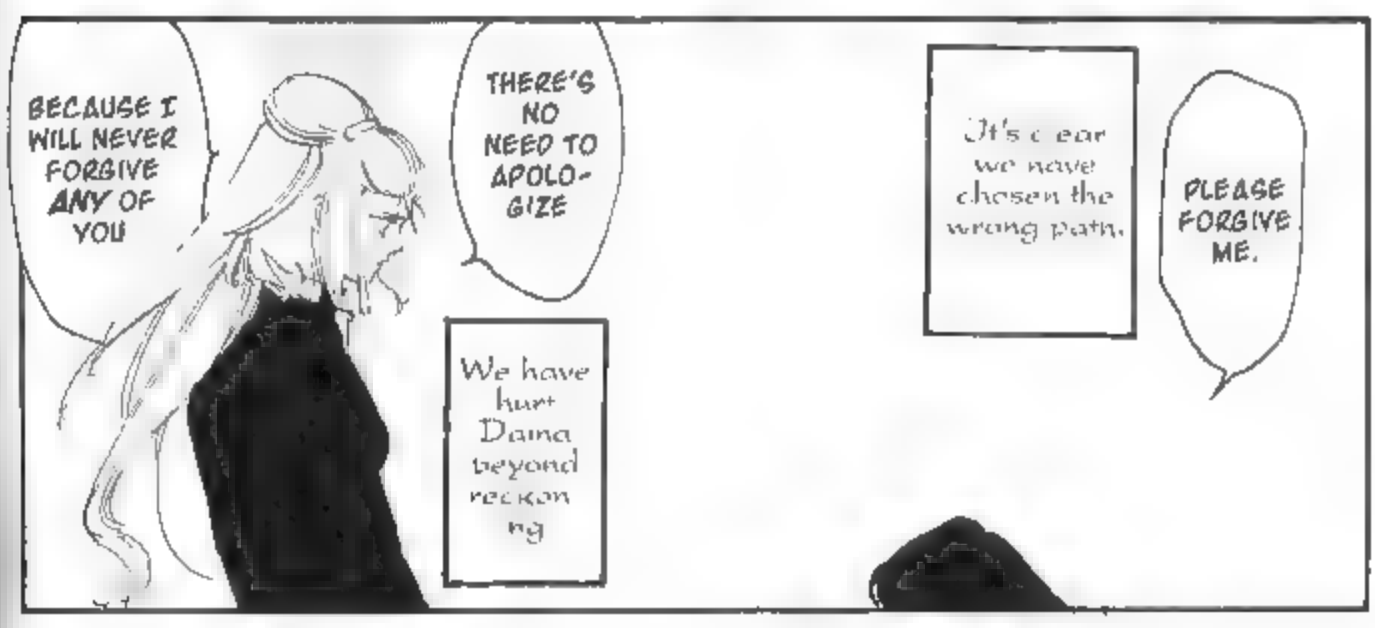
I CANNOT AGREE WITH ABOLISHING THE VERY HOPE
THAT DAINA FIRST GAVE US.
LIVING HIDDEN IN THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT OF THE ORIENT KAOLUNGA!...
SEARCHING FOR A BETTER LIFE
WITHOUT PASSPORTS, WITHOUT ANY FORM OF IDENTIFICATION, THEY FIND A HARDER LIFE HERE THAN THE ONE THEY RAN FROM BACK HOME
VERY WELL, THEN
PLEASE COME BACK TO US! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WE HAVE!
PLEASE, DAINA! I BEG OF YOU!

I WILL COME BACK ONCE YOU HAVE RETURNED MY BROTHER TO ME
YOU MEAN--

BUT WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO ABOUT MY SUPPORT?

.....
DAINA YOU YOU ARE OUR ONLY SUPPORT

I KNOW THAT! THAT'S WHY I PUT UP WITH BEING A PRIESTESS THIS WHOLE TIME!


BECAUSE I WILL NEVER FORGIVE ANY OF YOU
THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLO-GIZE
We have hurt Daina beyond reckon ng
It's c ear we nave chosen the wrong path.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY FORGIVE US, BUT
DAINA.
PLEASE
BECAUSE OF MY OVERBEARING JEALOUSY, I WATCHED HIM DIE
I'VE FALLEN LOWER THAN A WORM
THE LORD REQUESTED TO HAVE THE YOUNG BOY BRANDED
WHAT? BRANDED?!
YOU DON'T MEAN WITH THE DRAGON GOD'S--
HE CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
HE PLANS ON REPLACING ME WITH CHIKAYA?!
I WON'T STAND FOR IT!
YES, WE MUST HELP HIM ESCAPE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

RANKAI YOU MEAN YOU WOULD BETRAY EVERYONE.. FOR ME?
WHY WOULDN'T I? YOU'RE THE ONLY PRIESTESS FOR THE WAKI
MY PRIESTESS.
YOU'LL. YOU'LL GET IN A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR THIS.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
BECAUSE THE WAKI BELONG TO YOU AND YOU BELONG TO THE WAKI.
BUT ME? I'M DIFFERENT.
I BELONG SOLELY TO YOU, DAINA.

N-NO!
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
NO WAY!
THIS IS THE SEAL OF THE DRAGON GOD.
IT SHALL BE BRANDED ONTO YOU SO THAT THE DRAGON GOD MAY ALWAYS BE WITH YOU
EXCUSE ME?!
B-B-B-B-BUT!
YOU WILL BECOME A PRIEST FOR THE WAKI FAMILY.

OW!
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
NO! STOP IT! KNOCK IT OFF!
I. I DON'T HANDLE HEAT VERY WELL!
!!
STOP THIS AT ONCE!

Ow Ow Ow Ow Ow Ow Ow Ow Ow Ow
CHIHAYA! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Ouch
LOOK!
IT'S DAINA!
YEAH. I'M OKAY
Eww. they put something weird on me.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY DID THIS!
WHAT THE--
WHERE DID ALL THESE
IT'S KAGE-TSUYA!
IT MEANS HE'S CLOSE BY!
..BIRDS COME FROM?!

OH...
WHAT? W-WAIT!
CHI-HAYA!
YOU HAVE SOMEONE
SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO GO HOME NOW!
PLEASE, I'VE ONLY COME TO GET MY FRIEND BACK
IF YOU JUST DO WHAT I SAY, YOU WON'T GET HURT.
AREN'T YOU AREN'T YOU ANGRY THAT THEY DID THIS TO YOU?!
WHO WILL COME TO BRING YOU HOME
SO YOU HAVE SOMEONE
YEAH?

YOU'RE REALLY LUCKY
THAT THEY ALL CARE ABOUT YOU SO MUCH.
BUT
I WOULD NEVER FORGIVE THEM!
I'm still breathing, see?
WELL YEAH, IT SURE STUNG A BIT, BUT IT'S REALLY NO BIG DEAL.
WHAT!
SURE, THE PRIESTESS PART IS IMPORTANT TOO, BUT
NO! ALL THEY WANT IS THE PRIESTESS! NOT ME!
BUT THE TRUTH IS

NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
...
YOU HAVE SOMEONE WHO WILL COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO GET YOU!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S TAKEN CARE OF
All right he is coming, which is why I have to go. but
YOU'RE WRONG
YOU'RE WRONG AND YOU KNOW IT!
DAINA, PRIESTESS OF THE WAKI
DAINA
YOU'RE MY PRIDE AND JOY.
KAGE-TSUYA!

I LOVE YOU.
CHIHAYA!
HE WAS ALWAYS SO KIND TO ME!
THAT'S WHY I LOVED MY BROTHER!
I WON'T LET YOU GO, DAINA
.....
KAGE-TSUYA!
CHI-HAYA!
ARE YOU OKAY? DID THEY HURT YOU?

HE'S GONE NOW
THE ONE WHO PROTECTED ME THE ONE WHO GUIDED ME
I LOST THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE
STILL, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL A BIT JEALOUS.
WE'RE ALL STILL CALLING FOR YOU
YOU'RE WRONG, DAINA
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU, EVEN AFTER I'VE DIED
BUT
I KNOW THAT YOU WILL NOT FORGIVE US.

..I WON'T LET ANYONE LEAVE MY SIDE EVER AGAIN!
DAINA?
THAT'S WHY
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT? DON'T THINK I'M LETTING YOU GO ANYWHERE, EITHER!
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOJGH!
OH, DAINA!
I'M TIRED I'LL BE IN MY ROOM IF YOU NEED ME
DEAR, DEAR DAINA. I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE, EVEN TO THE GRAVE

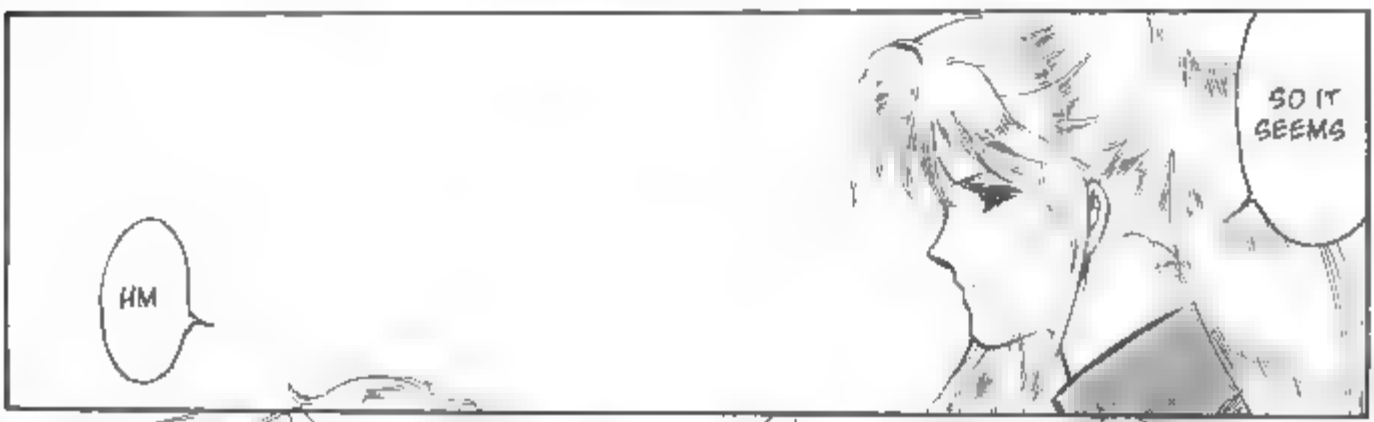
WHAT A MESS. WHAT FOOLS
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW DENSE THEY CAN BE.
YEAH, WELL.
DON'T ALWAYS COUNT AS MINUSES.
BUT I THINK THAT THE STUPID THINGS, THE WEAK THINGS, AND THE SAD THINGS
Hey, if my partner gets into any funny business, my record will look bad
You came to save me, didn't you?
What's so funny?
Hee hee!
BUT ASIDE FROM THAT
AT LEAST YOU GOT OUT OF THERE UNSCATHED, RIGHT?
Ha!
Er
I WOULDN'T EXACTLY SAY THAT NOTHING HAPPENED.

OW OW OW!
QUIT PULLING ME LIKE THAT!
AAAH!
WHAT IS THAT?!
OH MY GOD!
DON'T TOUCH IT! IT STILL HURTS!
DID THEY TRY TO ROAST YOU?
GRR!
What are you, a roast pig?
YOU, YOU IDIOT!
HOW COULD YOU LET THEM DO THIS TO YOU?!
THOSE COWARDS!
I can't believe them!
YES, THEY BRANDED ME LIKE I WAS A COW!
Or pig, as you like to put it

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO JUST WALK AROUND WITH A BURN LIKE THAT AND ON YOUR CHEST OF ALL PLACES?!
DON'T TOUCH IT! STOP IT!
I'LL BE FINE, KAGETSUYA! JUST GIVE IT A REST!
I SAID IT HURTS!
YOU CALL THAT "FINE"? HOLD STILL AND I'LL GET RID OF IT FOR YOU
YEAH, IT KIND OF SMARTS
STILL HOT, TOO
LOOKS PRETTY PAINFUL
ぎゃ!
WE GOTTA GET RID OF IT!
HOW COULD YOU GET YOURSELF INTO A MESS LIKE THAT?!
Ah! No--!

Later
HEAVEN
OH MY!
SEEMS LITTLE CHIHAYA'S GOTTEN HIMSELF A BIT HURT
HURT? HOW SO?
SNIF-FLE...
GASP WHEEZE HUFF
HUFF
TH
THANK YOU, KAGE-TSUYA
ばし!
NOW GO WRITE YOUR REPORT AND THEN GET TO BED!
AND DON'T MAKE ANY MORE TROUBLE!
ばたん
IT'S HEALED

KAGETSUYA ACTING UNSELFISHLY
YOU DON'T HEAR THAT EVERY DAY--
GOOD THING KAGETSUYA'S SPECIALTIES LIE IN THE HEALING ARTS AND BIRD-CALLING
VERY FUNNY HE SEEMS TO BE DOING FINE, HOWEVER
OH-HO
SAYS HE WAS BRANDED
Sizzled and everything
SOUNDS LIKE OUR LITTLE PIGGY
Hah heh.



"Hong Kong Chinese" was written before Hong Kong was returned to the People's Republic of China.

...in Hawaii.

The review session for the second half of 1987 was held on Christmas day...

WOW!

FOR REAL?!

SAYS HERE THAT LORD MICHAEL WILL ALSO BE PRESENT.

IN HAWAII?

CHRIST-MAS?

That's just too weird!

THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS, REMEMBER?

POW!

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING SO EXCITED ABOUT?

...TO DISCUSS OUR MAL-PRACTICE DOWN IN HONG KONG.

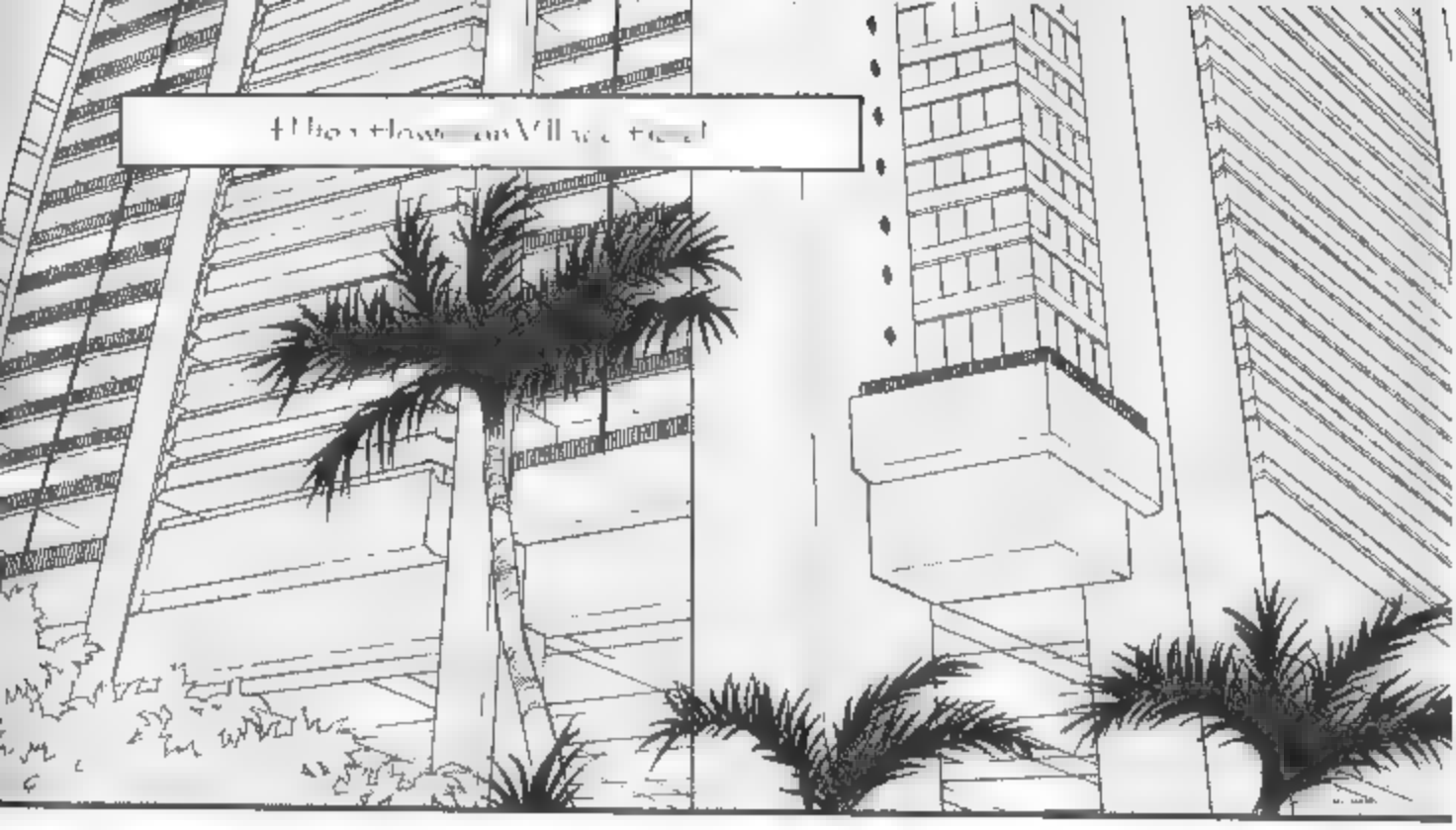
NO DOUBT THEY'RE HOLDING A JUDICIAL MEETING...

ERK!

CHRISTMAS SUMMER

BETTER PREPARE YOURSELF

HIP



DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS? HAVE YOU SEEN IT?!
KAGETSUYA! KAGETSUYA!!

OH..
I HAVE IT
WHAT? WHAT DID YOU LOSE?
TH-THE NECKLACE WITH THE L-L-LOCKET ON IT!
It was really important to me
I WAS UNTIL I LOST IT
I WAS TAKING CARE OF IT!
NO FAIR!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN THINGS!
KEEP IT DOWN, WOULD YOU?

むっ
GRR
I LEFT IT THERE ON PURPOSE!
I DION'T FORGET IT THERE!
YOU FORGOT IT IN THE BATHROOM
YOU TRICKY !
I was holding it for you
あ・ば
AAAAGH!!
My fault again I suppose
YEAH, YEAH
WHAT-EVER
CRASH
BASH
WAAAAAH
RATTLE
I HAVE MANNERS
OH, PLEASE I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FELL FOR THAT ONE YOU THINK I'D REALLY THROW AWAY SOMETHING THAT WAS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?

OW OW OW!
THAT WAS DIRTY, KAGE-TSUYA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE? GET BACK HERE
IT'S NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKS, YOU KNOW!
I CAN'T GET UP!
Too many branches
FLY OUT
HUH?
BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE SEES ME?
That's what this whole meeting's about remember?

YOU FREE TONIGHT?
OOH...
BUT HOW 'BOUT ONE FOR THE ROAD?
SORRY, BABE, NOT TONIGHT I PROMISED DAD I'D BE HOME EARLY.
OOH, WHAT A SHAME
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SEE YOU LATER
Huh?

Whoa!

IS THAT?!
WH-WH-WHAT.
NOT GOOD DEFINITELY NOT GOOD
Hm?
THAT MAKES THE THIRD PERSON TO SEE MY WINGS!
THUMP
THUD
ER
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MUNEYUKI?

Is it a girl? Or guy?
I could've sworn I saw wings.
What was that just now? Some kind of bird?
.....
What's gotten into you?!
BYE, PHOEBE! SEE YA LATER!
MUNE-YUKI?!
....
THIS'S GOTTA BE THE BIGGEST NEWS IN HISTORY!
AH, IT'S A GJV
He touched him

CLK
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE?
MM?
CLK
CLK
CLK
CLK
WHRR
Oops.
SO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
YOU'RE JAPANESE, RIGHT? AND A CUTIE AT THAT!
CLK
WHRR
CLK
WHRR
HEY, YOU THINK YOU COULD DO THAT THING YOU DID BEFORE?
SORRY FOR THE GET-UP, BUT
THE WING THING?
COME ON, LET'S SEE 'EM!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT--
WHA--
WHA--

SORRY, NO CAN DO NOT AFTER I SAW THEM.
SHOW ME YOUR TRUE FORM NOW
C-K
WHRR
GRRRRR
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? KNOCK IT OFF! IT'S CREEPING ME OUT!
S-STOP SAYING THAT!
HELP ME..!
A MUTA-TION?
A FREAK?
OR A DEMON?
YOU AN ANGEL?
HELP..!

KAGE--
KA-KAGE-TSUYA!
HE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
CHIHAYA! YOUR HAIR'S LONG AGAIN, YOU IDIOT!
Something happened. I'm sure of it
I WAS WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU COMING HOME LATE, AND HERE YOU ARE HAVING A LITTLE FUN?!
SORRY FOR BARGING IN SO LATE AT NIGHT
BUT I'M BRING-ING HIM HOME!
YA DON'T HAVE TO BE SO ROUGH
crack
Eep! Ow!

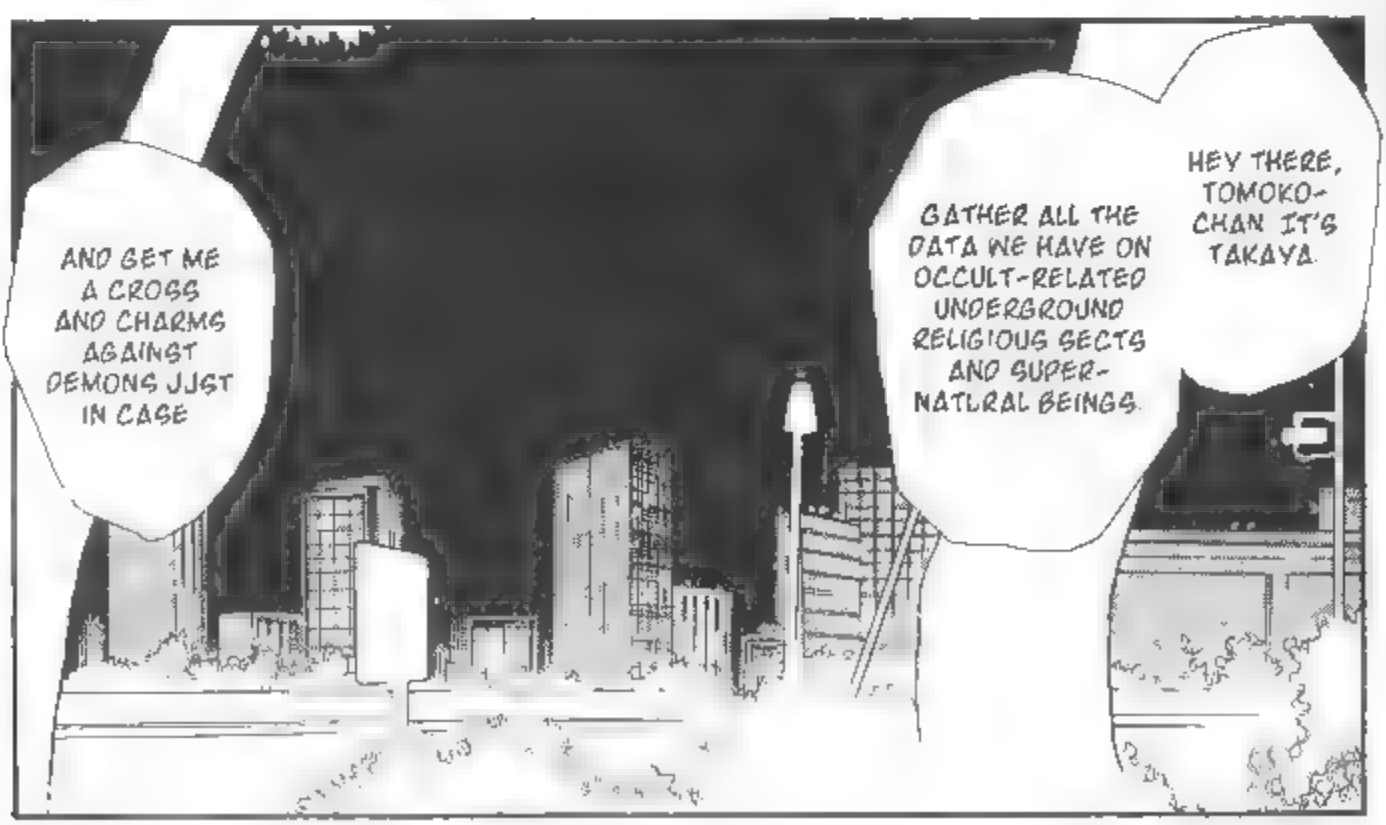
YOU HAVE SOME INTEREST IN PHOTOGRAPHY?
I'M A MAGAZINE JOURNALIST, YES.
NO, IT'S MY JOB
YOU A CAMERAMAN OR SOMETHING?
I DON'T LIKE THIS GUY AT ALL.
NO JUST VACATION
AND YOU'RE HERE IN HAWAII FOR WORK?

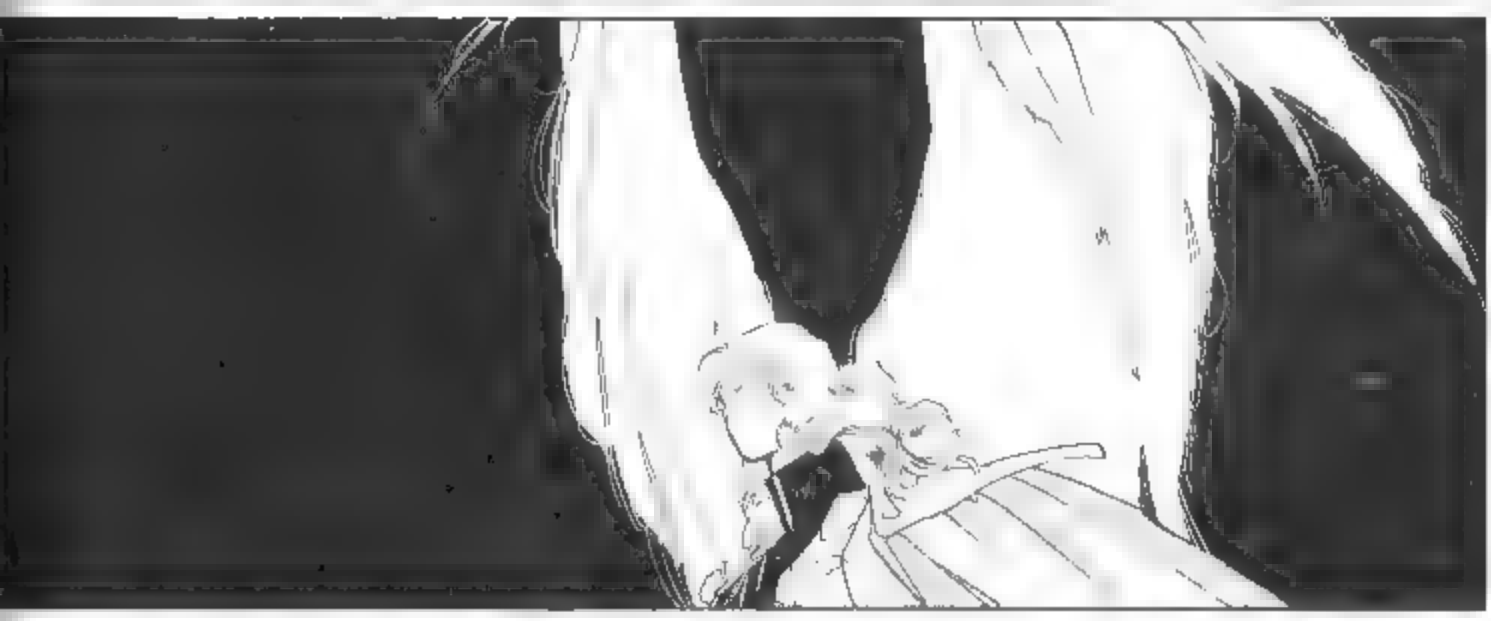
SNIFF
THE NAME'S MUNEYUKI TAKAYA REMEMBER IT
WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOON
WAIT! JUST A MINJTE, YOU!
WELL THEN, WE'LL BE ON OJR WAY NOW
OOH, LOOKS LIKE I TOUCHED A SENSITIVE SPOT
CLAP
CLAP
GLARE
HE SAW ME
WH--
WHAT SHOJLD WE DO?

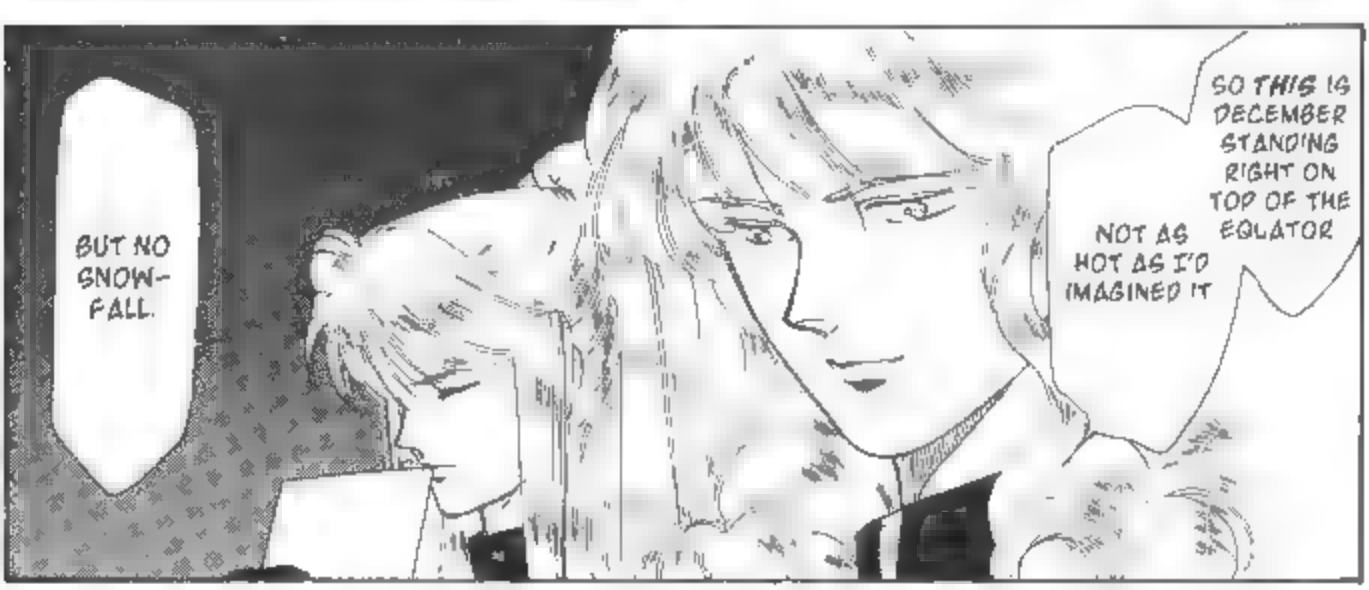
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOJT
DON'T WORRY, IT'S ONLY THE TH RD ONE YOU'RE STILL SAFE
THAT MAN'S THE THIRD PERSON TO SEE CHIHAYA'S WINGS!
I KNOW
YOU'LL BE DEMOTED IF YOU'RE SEEN FOR A FOURTH TIME
BJT BE MORE CAREFJL FROM NOW ON!

YUP, I'M ALL ALONE
MM-HM.
ERUMI? CAN YOU COME ON OVER NOW?

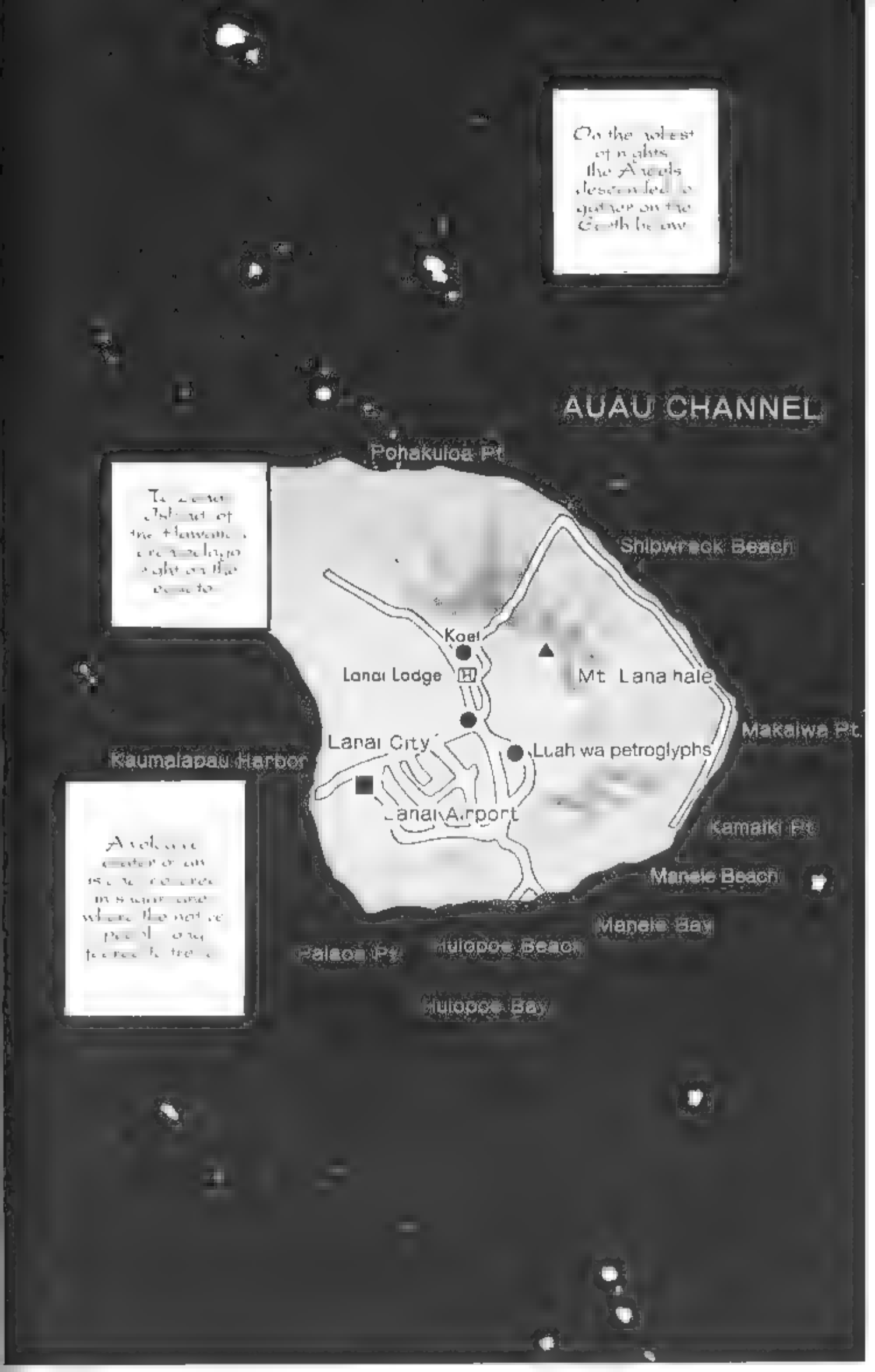
I KNOW WHAT I SAW!
OKAY, I'LL BE WAITING, HONEY
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU
THE SECOND ONE HAD TO BE DEMON
HE WAS OVERFLOWING WITH JEALOUSY!
this sort of material will always excite the readers
The horror boom is over but
GET ME THE SEIBUNDOU IN TOKYO
YES, I'D LIKE TO MAKE AN INTER-NAT ONAL CALL, PLEASE
I'LL GET HIM TO SHOW ME HIS TRUE FORM


AND GET ME A CROSS AND CHARMS AGAINST DEMONS JUST IN CASE
GATHER ALL THE DATA WE HAVE ON OCCULT-RELATED UNDERGROUND RELIGIOUS SECTS AND SUPER-NATURAL BEINGS
HEY THERE, TOMOKO-CHAN IT'S TAKAYA




BUT NO SNOW-FALL.
NOT AS HOT AS I'D IMAGINED IT
SO THIS IS DECEMBER STANDING RIGHT ON TOP OF THE EQUATOR

HA HA I KNEW THIS WHOLE MEETING WAS JUST AN EXCUSE TO COME DOWN HERE
OH, PHOOEY I WAS HOPING I COULD SEE THAT BRAND HE RECEIVED.
YES, MY LORD HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT CHIHAYA AND HIS PARTNER WILL BE RUNNING A BIT LATE
I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD START GATHERING EVERYONE, AM I RIGHT?
NO, I HAVE OTHER REASONS I'M STILL WONDERING HOW THAT LITTLE BUSINESS IN HONG KONG WILL BE RESOLVED
AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE NOT TOO HARD ON CHIHAYA
Heh.
THEN IT ISN'T TURNING OUT TO BE MUCH OF A WAGER, IS IT?
YES, I'M SURE KAGETSUYA WILL DEFEND HIM
I'M SURE KAGE-TSUYA WILL BE CHIHAYA'S LIFE-BOAT, ONCE AGAIN
WOULD YOU CARE TO MAKE A BET ON THE OUT-COME?


AUAU CHANNEL
Pohakuloa Pt
Shipwreck Beach
Koele
Lanai Lodge
H
Mt Lanaihale
Lanai City
Luahwa petroglyphs
Makaiwa Pt.
Kaumalapau Harbor
Lanai Airport
Kamaiki Pt
Manele Beach
Manele Bay
Hulopoe Beach
Hulopoe Bay

murmur
IT'S BEEN AGES! HOW HAVE YOU ALL BEEN?
JUST FINE STILL GETTING BY, I SUPPOSE
murmur
AYA, YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK OVER TODAY'S REPORT
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
I ALREADY READ THE WHOLE THING!

HE'LL BE JJST FINE
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HE GRADUATED FROM THE JNIVERSITY AS VALEDIC-TORIAN!
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT CHIHAYA? RUMOR HAS IT, HIS WINGS WERE SEEN BY A SECOND HUMAN
BUT HE'LL BE DEMOTED IF IT GETS UP TO FOUR PEOPLE! WHAT AN IDIOT!
YOU SURE ARE QJ'CK TO GET ON MY CASE TODAY
MIYAGI, YOU JUST FAVOR HIM BECAUSE YOJ'RE ALSO A CHECKER FOR THE PLJSES
EVEN PEOPLE WHO LOOK HALFWAY DECENT AT FIRST GLANCE CAN, IN ACTUALITY, BE NO GOOD
WELL, YEAH BJT STILL
AT LEAST YOJ'LL HAVE THE CHANCE TO SEE HIM DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY?
AYA CAN'T STAND THE THOJGHT OF THAT LITTLE BRAT HANGING ALL OVER AYA'S PRECIOJS KAGE-TSUYA!
AYA WON'T BE ABLE TO STOMACH SEEING THEM SITTING TOGETHER AT THE MEETING TODAY!

KAGE-
TSUYA S
COME
IT'S
KAGE-
TSUYA'
KAGE-
TSUYA?!
HE S
HERE?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GET YOUR MUDDY PAWS OFF OF HIM!
WHY CAN'T YOU FLY ON YOUR OWN?
Ugh! It's the brat!
I SEE YOU'RE JUST THE SAME AS EVER, AYA
KAGE-TSUYA! OH, HOW AYA'S MISSED YOU!
I FLEW HIM HERE
SOME SHADY GUY'S ALREADY GOT HIS EYE ON HIM. I THOUGHT IT BEST FOR HIM NOT TO STAND OUT ANY MORE

Actually, maybe black wings wouldn't stand out so much at night

YOU WANT TO BE WITH KAGETSUYA THAT BADLY?
OF COURSE AYA WOULDN'T WANT TO BE ON THE PLUSES' SIDE, THOUGH
It's complicated.
AYA WOULD NEVER JOIN THE PLUSES TEAM! AYA HATES THE EARTHIAN!
DON'T BE RIDI-CULOUS!
SORRY, BUT THAT WON'T HAPPEN. YOU CAN'T BE MY PARTNER IF WE'RE BOTH COUNTING MINUSES.
IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY I COULD BE PARTNERED WITH YOU!
Let's go, Chihaya.
JUST HANG IN THERE
MIYAGI SUITS YOU BETTER ANYWAY
SO DON'T WORRY.
OH, BUT YOU'RE STILL NO. 2 ON AYA'S LIST OF LOVES, MIYAGI
HMM... IS THAT SO?

AND THAT ENDS THE REPORT

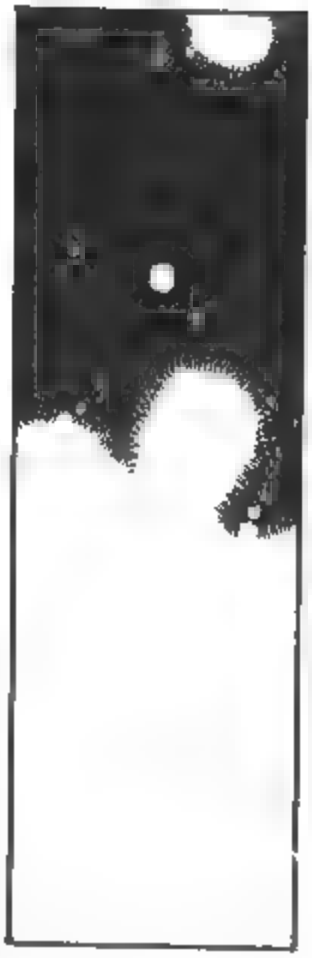
AFTER LOOKING OVER THE SUMMARY OF THE LAST SIX MONTHS' ACTIVITIES.
WE CAN SEE THE PLUG CHECKER'S MISTAKES ARE QUITE OBVIOUS
ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE RECENT INCIDENT IN HONG KONG

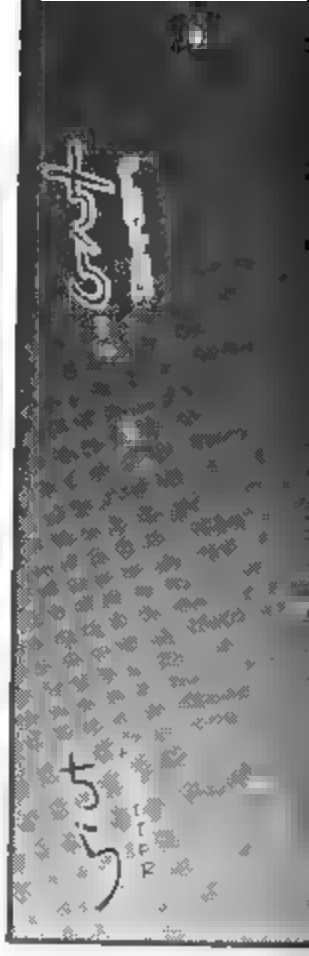
NOT ONLY DID HE LET HIS WINGS BE SEEN
BUT HE LET HUMANS SEE HIS POWERS
CAN WE EVEN TRUST HIM ANY-MORE?
THAT MAKES TWO DOWN, TWO TO GO
Looks like he just got pushed over the side
You call this a lifeboat?
WHAAAA!!
ACTUALLY, HE'S ALREADY CUTTING IT CLOSE CHIHAYA WAS SEEN BY A THIRD PERSON TODAY
What do I do?!
GOOONG

I KNOW THE THIRD INCIDENT WAS A MISTAKE ON MY PART, BUT
Hilton's is better
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT
CLATTER
And this one's mine. Which tastes better?
This is some banana bread from the Hilton Hawaiian village
I WILL, HOWEVER, ACCEPT MY PUNISHMENT FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN HONG KONG
You saying my cooking's bad?
WERE NOT ACCI-DENTS, AND I DON'T REGRET THEM
..THE FIRST ONE, WITH TAKI, AND SECOND WITH DAINA
I BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE FORCED TO TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR HIS MISTAKES AND CLEAN UP THE MESS HE MADE
THAT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!
OH, PLEASE!
AS SOFT FOR THE EARTH AS EVER, I SEE.

IT'S NOT A JOKE
KAGE-TSUYA?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
THEN THAT WOULD MEAN I'D HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY TOO
MUNCH MUNCH
WHAT A JOKE! HOW CAN YOU BRING YOURSELF DOWN TO HIS LEVEL?!
MY PARTNER'S MISTAKES ARE MY MISTAKES
BUT HE HAS BEEN SEEN BY THREE PEOPLE NOW WHAT SHALL WE DO?
ONE MORE AND IT'S ALL OVER.
STOP IT!
BECAUSE I HAVEN'T BEEN SEEN BY ANYONE YET, I CHOOSE TO TURN OVER MY THREE CHANCES TO CHIHAYA

OH, LORD MICHAEL YOU TEASE
LET'S SEE YOU DO IT
VERY WELL THEN, CHIHAYA IF YOU CAN MAKE IT SNOW FOR US THIS CHRISTMAS, WE SHALL BE LENIENT WITH YOU
AH, BUT OF COURSE
NO PROB-LEM, SIR!
ONE SNOW-FALL COMING RIGHT UP!
BUT THAT'S
PIECE OF CAKE!
TRUST ME!
UH, CHIHAYA?
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN DO THAT?
Seems a bit difficult





WOW...

I I CAN'T BELIEVE HE ACTUALLY DID IT
HIS POWER IS TO CREATE STORMS HE MANAGED TO SWEEP SOME SNOW OFF OF MT LANAIHALE WITH A STRONG WIND
The weather reporters is busy for with this one
SO I GUESS NOTHING HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND THAT GUY FROM BEFORE
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! OF COURSE NOT!
THAT'S A CAPITAL OFFENSE! I'D BE EXECUTED!
I swear I'll get a picture of those wings someday

For my dear Masato Tanaka.

VALHALLA

Home Country
Planet Eden
Very far
Moon
Planet Earth
This story takes place on Eden
another word for "heaven"
It is also the name of the Angels super-computer on the moon's surface
At the end of the 20th century, Earth has become a wasteland

CONGRATULATIONS, EXAMINEE #KX-62-53, CHIHAYA
IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT YOU WILL BE RELOCATED TO VALHALLA
VALHALLA?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
DO YOU MEAN I I PASSED THE TEST?!
THAT IS CORRECT
YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE HONOR OF ATTENDING MILITARY SCHOOL
AT THE END OF YOUR THREE-YEAR TRAINING, YOU WILL DO SERVICE IN THE MOVING CASTLE,* VALHALLA

*The Moving Castle=Their mobile base

OKAY, ALSO
I'LL HAVE TO COVER THE COST FOR MY CLOTHING AND PLACE TO STAY, RIGHT?
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IS THERE SOMETHING MORE?
Like "It's an honor!" or "I'll do my best" or something?
Huh?
Huh?
Huh?
IS THAT ALL?
I I'M SO GLAD! I MEAN, I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER!
THIS MEANS I WON'T HAVE TO GO HUNGRY ANYMORE!
ANYWAY, LET'S HAVE DINNER TOGETHER, SHALL WE?
Oh well
BUT WHATEVER
ER, THAT WASN'T EXACTLY WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR
BUT IT'S MY TURN TO MAKE DINNER TONIGHT, SO I HAVE TO GO HOME
THANK YOU SO MUCH, LORD RAPHAEL!

YOU WON'T BE GOING BACK TO THE ORPHANAGE ANYMORE
GRIN
WHAT? WHY NOT?!
A FOSTER FATHER HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED FOR YOU
D.S. CLUB
WHAT?! !!
じたばた
BUT
SORRY, COULD YOU RUN THAT BY ME AGAIN?!
DID YOU JUST SAY FOSTER DAD?!
B-B-BUT WHO WOULD WANT ME?!
HUH?!
YOU ARE NO LONGER AN ORPHAN
ONE OF MY SUPERIORS
LORD MICHAEL, TO BE EXACT
...I couldn't be so lucky!!

Lord Michael's humble mansion

HOW COULD SUCH A YOUNG
NICE TO MAKE YOJR ACQUAIN-TANCE, CHIKAYA I'M MICHAEL
HEH HEH
AND HANDSOME GUY BE MY FATHER? IT'S JUST TOO WEIRD
I'LL BE YOUR DADDY FROM NOW ON
YES? WHAT IS IT?
LORD MICHAEL MIGHT GROW FICKLE AND BORED WITH ME
EXCUSE ME, SIR
MAY I ASK A QUESTION?
BUT WHEN TOMORROW COMES
I MIGHT HAVE TO WAKE UP FROM THIS DREAM.
UH, WHY.. DID YOU ADOPT ME?

A little disappointed for some reason
I SEE
OOOH
B-BJT IT'S NOT LIKE THE QJESTIONS WERE VERY HARD OR ANYTHING
Oh well
OH, THAT
THE REASON IS OBVIOUS YOJ SCORED THE HIGHEST ON THE EXAM
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I ABSOLUTELY DESPISE THE WEAK OF HEART
SO TRY NOT TO BE LIKE THAT
Y- YES, SIR!
WE ALL SHARE THE SAME FLESH AND BONES, JUST AS PARENTS DO WITH THEIR CHILDREN
WHETHER WE ARE BEAUTIFUL OR HIDEOUS
YOUR OJTER APPEARANCE UNDOJBTEDLY CAUSES YOJ SOME GRIEF, BUT YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOJT THAT ANYMORE.

BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST, GOTTA GET MY SUITCASE UNPACKED

Never know when he's going to get sick of me

HA HA HA

Come along now Chinaya I'll show you to your room

Yes, sir

stunned

SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT WE SHOULD BEHAVE AS FATHER AND SON

DWUUUH?

IT MIGHT TAKE A LITTLE TIME FOR ME TO START THINKING LIKE THAT THOUGH

LORD MICHAEL

HE PROBABLY IS ABLE TO SAY THAT BECAUSE HE'S SO PRETTY HIMSELF

IT SURE IS NICE TO BE CALLED "PRETTY"

[illegible] my organs' [illegible] really doesn't do much for me

[illegible] aah!

I'LL DO MY BEST!
REMEMBER, YOUR HAIR MUST BE PUT UP WHEN YOU ATTEND THE CEREMONY
I'M SORRY I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME WITH YOU
Work can't wait!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF!
WHY, DON'T YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY ADORABLE IN THAT RIBBON!
YES JUST LIKE A GRADE SCHOOLER
WELL THEN, OFF YOU GO!

LORD MICHAEL! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR DOING UP MY HAIR FOR ME!
Hee hee
OH!
BYE-BYE!
NOW THEN, LORD MICHAEL
WAVE
WAVE
YOU'VE CERTAINLY GOT YOUR WORK CUT OUT FOR YOU!
YOU NEEDN'T BE UNREASONABLE ABOUT THIS
IT'D BE MUCH EASIER AND MUCH MORE EFFICIENT IF WE GO UP TO THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO GET THINGS DONE
In many ways

HMM? THAT'S QUITE UNLIKE YOU TO GO MAKING ASSUMPTIONS, RAPHAEL
ARE YOU CHOOSING TO STAY HOME FOR CHIHAYA'S SAKE?
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH GETTING SOME WORK DONE AT HOME, IS THERE?
IT'LL BE MORE RELAXING
IS THAT SO?
I ONLY ADOPTED HIM BECAUSE HE DID SO WELL ON THE ENTRANCE EXAM
CHIHAYA HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
It was hard, I tell you!
But Chihaya said it was eas
And just so you know, I tried taking that test and found it incredibly difficult
CHIHAYA? WHO'S THAT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WAS SMART ENOUGH TO PASS THE EXAM AND GET INTO THE SCHOOL!
CHIHAYA'S ONE OF THEM!
134回入学式
134th School Entrance Ceremony
JUST A MINUTE, MIYAGI! HEAR ME OUT! YOU KNOW THE FRESHMEN COMING IN?
PLEASE FOLLOW THE RED ROPE AND GO TO THE--
We'll start in 30 min utes
CHIHAYA, YOU DUMMY! THE ONE WITH THE BLACK WINGS? HOW COULD YOU FORGET?!
Now taking roll call
What's wrong with your gloves? Get them on straight!

HEY! THIS IS SERIOUS!
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH, AYA
JEEZ, AYA IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME WITH YOU SOMETHING TO BITCH ABOUT
It's going to get you nowhere
THERE'S NO SCREW-UP BIGGER THAN HIM! HE'S TOTALLY BAD LUCK! HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO LOOKS LIKE THAT ON THE ENTIRE PLANET!
FOR SUCH A SCREW-UP, HE'S REALLY COME PRETTY FAR
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING AT THE RECEPTION TABLE, RIGHT? WELL, IT'S STARTING, SO GET MOVING
KAGE-TSUYA!
ばたばた
AND WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR COAT? IT'S STILL CHILLY OUT
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT AYA! AYA'S JUST FINE!
LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER AFTER SCHOOL, 'KAY?
YEAH, YEAH WHAT-EVER YOU SAY
わ!
わ!
AND YOU, MIYAGI THERE SEEMS TO BE A SMALLER NUMBER OF FRESHMEN THIS YEAR, SO
ALSO
WE'LL BE USING GATE E DURING THE INTRODUCTION CEREMONY
UM PARDON ME?

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO LOOKS LIKE THAT ON THE ENTIRE PLANET!

IT'S CHIHAYA.

THERE'S NO SCREW-UP BIGGER THAN HIM! HE'S TOTALLY BAD LUCK!

OH MY

YES? WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?

WHERE DO FRESHMEN GO FOR REGI-STRATION?

THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT HIM .
YEAH, I KNOW
WHOA, HE REALLY IS BLACK! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
DEFINITELY GETTING SOME CREEPY VIBES FROM HIM
WOW, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PERSON
どきどきっ
THADUMP
THADUMP
THAT WOULD BE ROOM 49
HERE IT IS ON THE MAP
OKAY!
THANK YOU!
BUT THEY'RE DEAD WRONG HE'S BREATHTAKING
I SEE YOU'RE SAYING THAT BECAUSE HE'S DIFFERENT?
JUST BECAUSE HIS WINGS AND HAIR AREN'T WHITE
CREEPY? WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
THAT MEANS HE ISN'T PRETTY?

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T THINK THAT, BUT
KAGE-TSUYA?
Hm?
OH, I'M FINE..
KAGE-TSUYA!
WHERE'S THE FIRST AID STATION?
THAT WOULD BE ON THE SIDE OF THE FIRST FLOOR LOBBY
THE STUDENTS WILL PASS OUT IF WE DON'T KEEP THE AIR CIRCULATING

JEEZ, NOT A MINUTE'S REST AROUND HERE!
THERE AREN'T ENOUGH MICROPHONES GO GET SOME MORE FROM THE SECOND STOREROOM
MAKE SURE THAT ALL THE FRESHMEN ARE IN!
CHATTER
WHAT THE--?!
EH!
IT'S THE BOY AGAIN! CAN'T MISS HIM IN A CROWD WITH THAT BLACK HAIR
OH!
KAGE-TSUYAA!
GRRR
GRRR
MORE IMPORTANTLY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT LORD MICHAEL'S ADOPTED SON?!
NO! THE RECEPTION TABLE'S ALREADY CLOSED!
YOU AGAIN?! ARE YOU SKIPPING OUT ON YOUR DUTIES?

IT'S SO UNFAIR! IT'S OBVIOJS YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN CHOSEN!
IT TOTALLY GRINDS AYA'S NERVES!
HOW CAN YOU SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING?!
.....
IT'S HIM! THAT BOY'S BEEN CHOSEN BY LORD MICHAEL!
HEY!
WHATEVER LORD MICHAEL DECIDES IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS
eep
That kid did it again
Hmph
WHAT ARE YOJ TALKING ABOUT?!
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE, DION'T YOU?
IT WAS NEVER OFFICIALLY DECIDED THAT I SHOULD BE CHOSEN

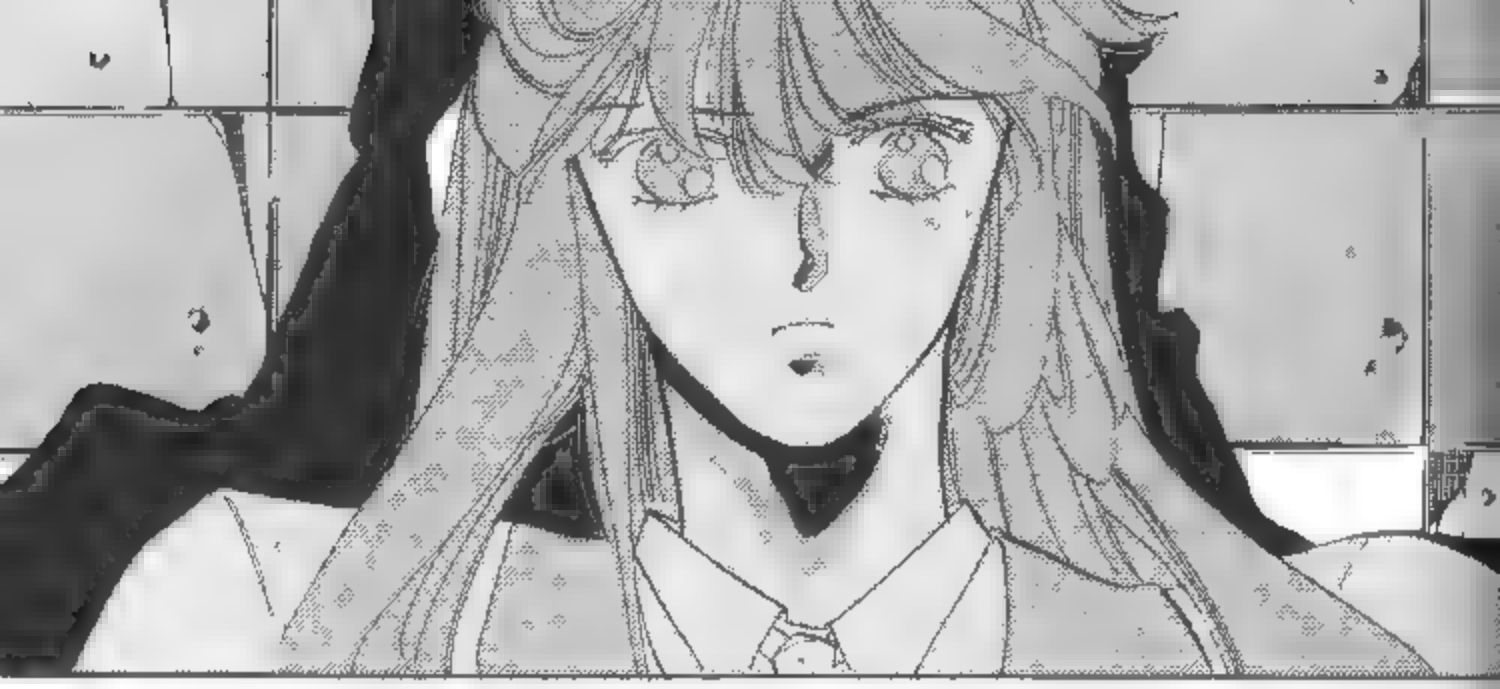
YOU COWARD! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, BULLYING ANOTHER FRESHMAN DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY?!
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH OUT OF YOU!
AND YOU! HOW CAN YOU JUST STAND THERE LIKE NOTHING'S HAPPENING?!
If you're kicked, then kick back!
KAGE-TSUYA
GRRR
JUST LOOKING AT IT INFURIATES ME!
S-SORRY, SIR
HEY! KAGETSUYA! I'M TALKING TO YOU!
Sounds just like Lord Michael!
IT'S SPINELESS COWARDS LIKE YOU THAT PISS ME OFF THE MOST!

THEN, WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING HIM, HUH? TELL ME THAT!
AYA!
WHAT'S WITH YOU, KAGETSUYA? DO YOU LIKE HIM OR SOMETHING?
WH-WHAT?!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! OF COURSE NOT!
LIAR!
IF YOU'RE GONNA DO IT, THEN GET IT OVER WITH ALREADY!
AYA'S KAGETSUYA WOULD NEVER HIT A GIRL!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? HIT ME?!
N-NO! PLEASE DON'T USE VIOLENCE!
NO, I WOULDN'T
I'D JUST DIRTY MY HANDS HITTING A GIRL.
HMPH.
WAAAH!
ORO ORO

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?! GET OUT OF HERE!
stare
HMPH!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!
WOW, HE SURE CAN BE SCARY!
SORRY, SIR
Y-YES, SIR!
EVEN THOJGH AYA LOVES HIM SO MUCH!
I'M JJST AS PERPLEXED AS YOJ, AYA
I SWEAR
.I DON'T GET KAGETSUYA AT ALL!

THINK ABOUT THEM KAGETSUYA AND CHIHAYA ARE BOTH GUYS YOU KNOW NOTHING CAN HAPPEN BETWEEN THEM
IT'S JUST CAUSE WE'RE RELATED!
YEAH, BUT THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE WE'RE COUSINS!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE REALLY LIKES ME!
TO THINK THAT HE DOESN'T LIKE ME--
I WAS FINE BECAUSE I KNEW KAGETSUYA DIDN'T LIKE ANYONE ELSE BUT NOW.
IT'S ALL RIGHT KAGETSUYA TREATS YOU LIKE YOU'RE SPECIAL YOU KNOW THAT
AYA CAN'T STAND IT!
WHETHER THEY'RE LOVERS, OR FRIENDS, OR FAMILY .
BUT IT'LL BE TOO LATE EVEN IF NOTHING HAPPENS!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO ABOUT IT, ANYWAY?
REALLY, AYA, YOU'RE A HANDFUL
わ
WAAAH!
ANYONE WHO KAGETSUYA LIKES...AYA HATES!
?

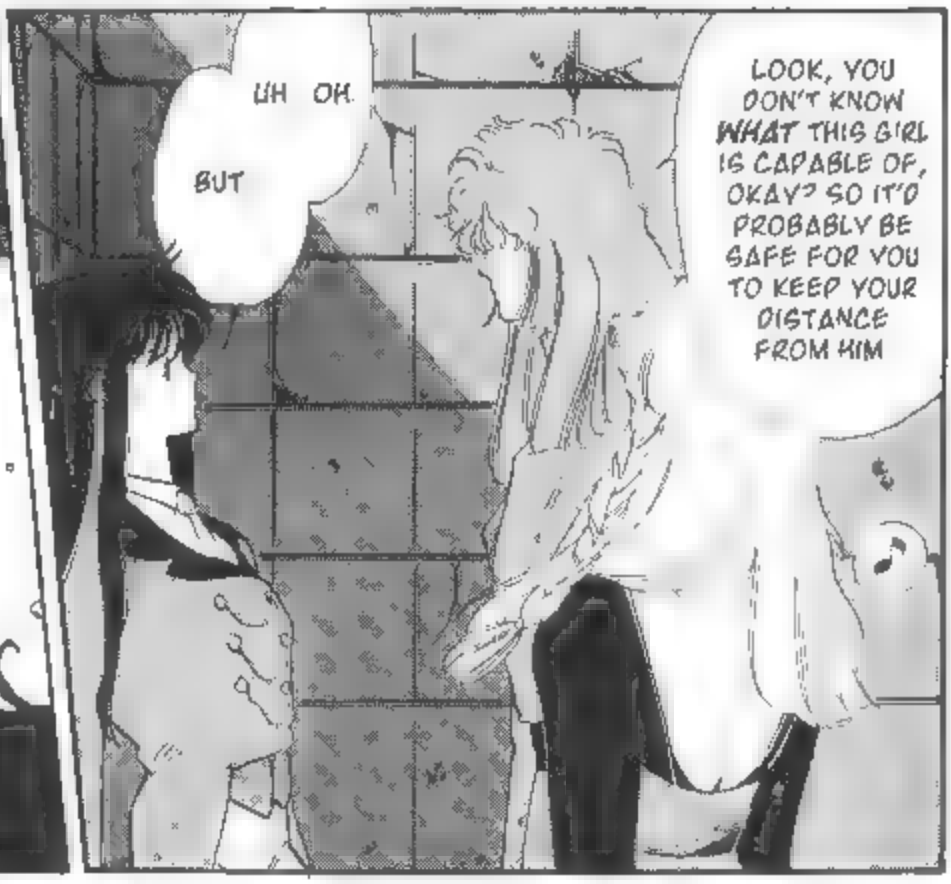
BOY, TODAY WAS BUSY
And yet I have a feeling of completion
SIGH
A FRESHMAN'S BEING BULLIED IN THE REAR GARDEN OF THE SCHOOL!
KAGE-TSUYA!
WH-WHAT IS IT?!
I'M ALREADY WORN TO THE BONE, AND NOW I HAVE TO DEAL WITH INSOLENT RUFFIANS?!
WHAAAT?!
It never ends
RIP



UH, Y-YES.
BUT
BUT, I

HAVE I MADE MY-SELF CLEAR?
AND SO, WE REQUEST THAT YOU NEVER GO NEAR KAGE-TSUYA AGAIN

sniff
MIYAGI!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?! I WOULDN'T EXPECT THIS SORT OF FOOLISHNESS FROM YOU!


UH OH.
BUT
LOOK, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS GIRL IS CAPABLE OF, OKAY? SO IT'D PROBABLY BE SAFE FOR YOU TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM HIM

I HEAR THAT A FRESHMAN IS BEING BULLIED ONLY TO FIND YOU HERE?!
N-NO, WE WEREN'T BULLYING HIM--
STUTTER STUTTER
NOW LET'S SET THINGS STRAIGHT! WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO BE NEAR ME OR NOT IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU
JUST AS IT'S UP TO ME TO CHOOSE WHO I LIKE OR DON'T LIKE!
UGH, WHAT A TOTAL DISAP-POINTMENT THIS HAS BEEN
ERK
AND DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM ANYONE ELSE!
SO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS!
THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME, GOT IT?

CHIHAYA
YOU DON'T WANT TO MAKE TROJBLE FOR LORD MICHAEL, AM I RIGHT?
YOU HURRY ALONG HOME NOW TOO
NOW, I SAY IT'S TIME WE WENT HOME AND CALLED IT A NIGHT
"CHIHAYA..."
I REALLY LIKE YOU!
HEY, YOU BRAT! DON'T GO TOUCHING KAGETSUYA LIKE HE'S YOURS!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
ER.
W-WAIT!
I.
PLEASE WAIT!

WHAT?
WH-WHERE DID THAT COME FROM ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
NOOOOO! KAGETSUYA! TELL AYA IT'S NOT TRUE!
I'M SORRY, BUT I JUST HAD TO SAY IT
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT IDEA FROM?!
WELL, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I DON'T LIKE YOU!
Because I couldn't get the idea out of my head.
As long as I could say it once
OH I'M OKAY WITH THAT

I thought that if I could find someone who was kind to me, then maybe I would fall in love with that person.
WHY WOULD HE
HOW CHEEKY!
Buh-bye! Have a safe trip home!
LIKE ME?
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, CHIHAYA?
COME ON! LET'S GO!
TOTALLY CHEEKY!

TH-THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I JUST HAPPEN TO BE GOING IN THE SAME DIREC-TION! THAT'S ALL!
NOW DON'T FORGET!
I HAPPEN TO HAVE A CAR COMING
SO I'LL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESCORT YOU
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME
"CHIHAYA."
THERE'S SORT OF A NICE FEELING
HAVING SOMEONE CALL YOUR NAME
NO PRO-BLEM!
IT'S COINCIDENCE! THAT'S ALL!
カチャ
カチャ
OH, IS THAT SO?
OH, LORD MICHAEL! I HAD SUCH A GREAT FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!
I MET THIS SUPER PRETTY GUY!

AH, KAGE-TSUYA, HUH?
HE IS A PRETTY ONE, THAT'S FOR SURE
HE'S THE HEIR TO THE SAKJRA FAMILY
HE'S NOBILITY?!
KAGE-TSUYA!
I made sure to remember his name!
AND JUST WHO IS IT?
I SEE NOW! THAT'S WHY HE WAS SO DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS! BEING NOBILITY MEANS THAT HE'S QUITE A HIGH-RANKING ANGEL
WOW...
SO, CHIHAYA.
ARE YOU ENJOYING SCHOOL?

ABSOLUTELY! I'M HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME!
I GUESS THAT MEANS THERE'S EVEN LESS CHANCE NOW, BUT
IF HE COULD LIKE ME BACK
I THINK THAT'D BE PRETTY NICE
AAH! S-SO SO CUTE!
chomp
. . .

ETERNAL ROMANCE PART 1 & 2

katan
ガタン
kataaan
ch chnk
ch chnk
ch chnk
LAST STOP, SHIN-JUKU
THIS IS SHIN-JUKU
LAST STOP
THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING OJR SERVICE TODAY
THIS IS THE FINAL STOP ON THE LAST TRAIN FINAL STOP!
PLEASE CHANGE HERE FOR THE YAMA-NOTE LINE

SORRY, SIR, BUT I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU GET OFF NOW THIS IS THE LAST STOP ON THE LINE
BETTER HURRY BEFORE THE NEXT TRAIN LINE FILLS UP
COME ON, KID
THIS IS OUR STOP
LET ME GUESS. YOU RAN AWAY FROM HOME, RIGHT?
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME IF YOU WANT, BUT IF NOT, YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY AT MY PLACE FOR A WHILE
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IF YOU KEEP RUNNING AROUND BARE-FOOT
HERE, YOU CAN BORROW MY GLOVES FOR NOW
YOU'LL LOOK LIKE A CUTE LITTLE GODZILLA

HELP ME
NOW BE A GOOD LITTLE KID AND COME WITH US.
IT'S NO USE TRYING TO RUN AWAY
THERE! WE FOUND #71!
No. I don't want to go!
I'M SORRY FOR THE TROJBLE, SIR
THIS BRAT RAN OUT OF THE HOSPITAL WHILE UNDER MEDICAL TREATMENT
YOU SEE, THIS ONE CAN'T SPEAK--
SORRY, SIR, BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT YOU ARE MISTAKEN
ARGH!
AND THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT A HOSPITAL THAT CALLS ITS PATIENTS BY A NUMBER.
THE POOR THING'S BEGGING ME TO HELP HER
NOW WAIT JUUUUUST A MINUTE, MY GOOD GENTLEMEN. WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING WITH HER?

AARGH!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHAT THE--
GRAB THE BRAT BEFORE SHE GETS OUTSIDE!
AFTER 'EM!
IT'S #71!
SHE'S BURNING UP!
AARGH!
!!
HURRY UP!
DAM-MIT!
tup
thup
tup
sizzle

HEY YOU! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
THE KID BELONGS TO US!
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
AFTER THEM!
DON'T WORRY, KID I'M ON YOUR SIDE
OOPSIE DAISY!
WHOA! CLOSE ONE!
OH NO! THAT WAS THE DOC'S FAVORITE GREEN TEA! AND YOU WENT AND BUSTED IT!
HOLY CRAP!

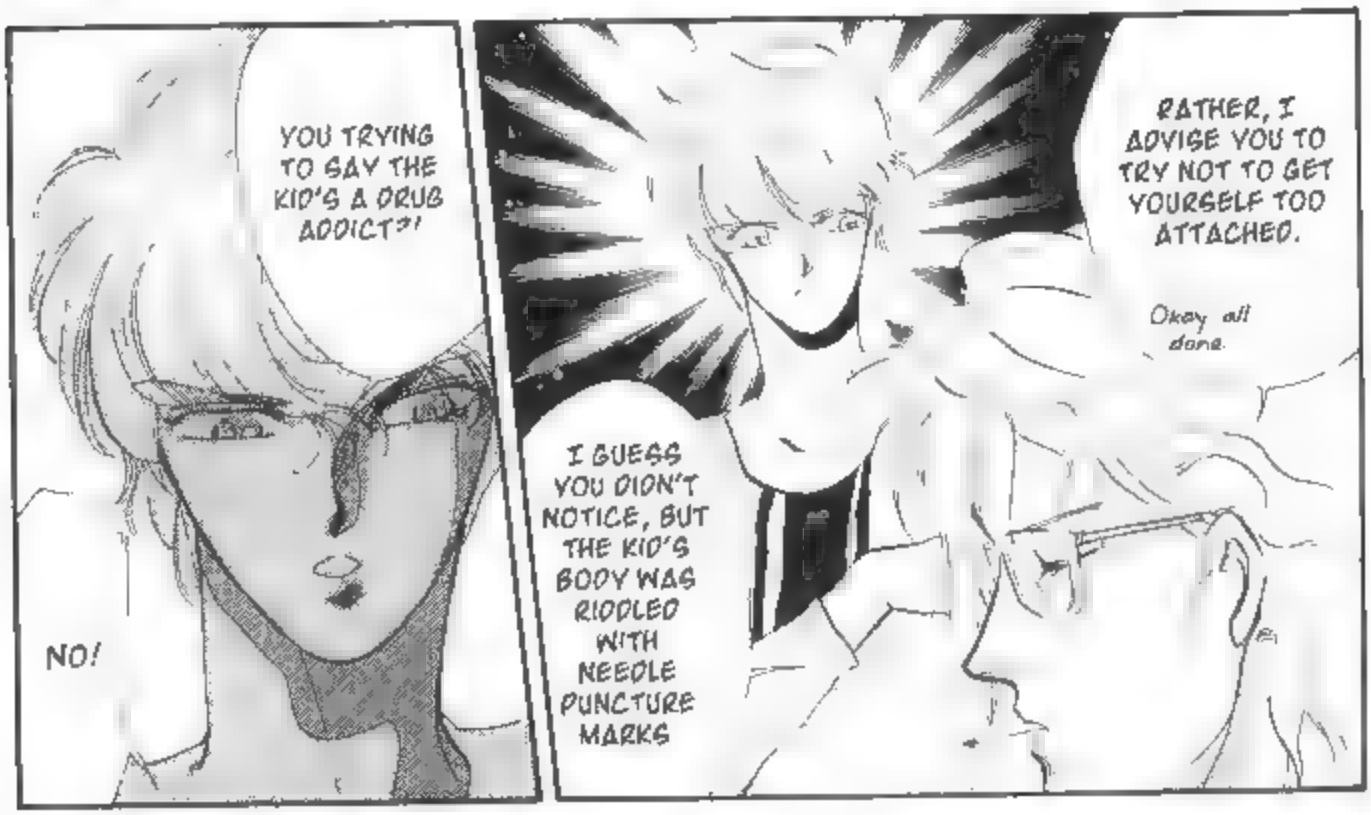
HOW AM I GONNA EXPLAIN THIS TO THE DOC?
GREAT!
AND HERE I WENT ALL THE WAY TO SHIZUOKA TO PICK IT UP FOR HIM!
YOU BUNCH OF LOUSY SCUM-BAGS!
TMP
TMP
TMP
WATCH WHERE YOU PUT YOUR HANDS!
YOU TRYING TO ROAST ME ALIVE OR SOMETHING?!
Ow hot
YOWTCH! COOL IT WITH THE FIRE, KID!
Wait!

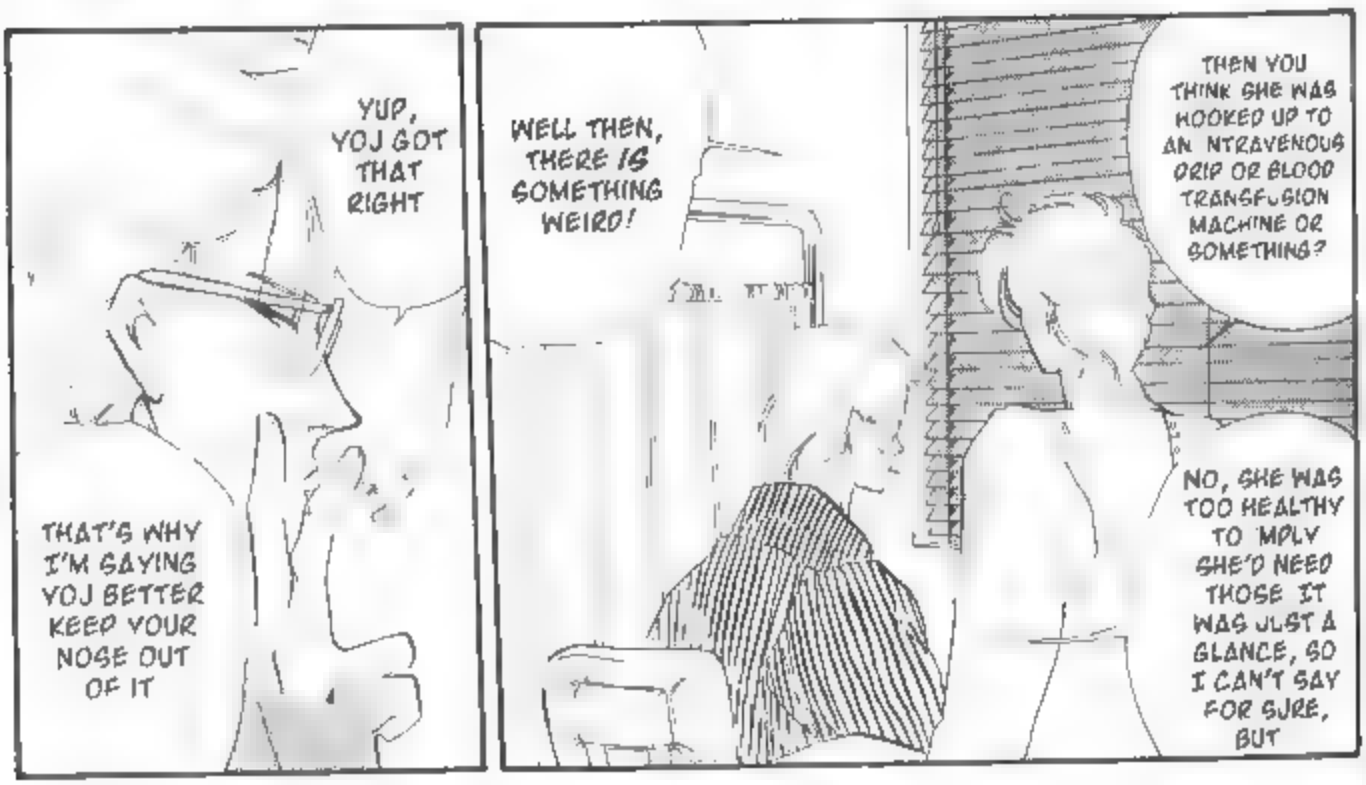
OH, DOCTOR
MM!
OOPS! SORRY TO BUST IN ON YOU LIKE THIS, DOC, BUT IT'S AN EMERGENCY YOU MIND COMING DOWN AND GIVING ME A HAND?
HMM?
EEK!
MUST I REMIND YOU THAT OFFICE HOURS ARE OVER?
AAH!
WHAT'S THIS?
TAKI, YOU'RE BLEEDING
I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU TOOK A LOOK AT IT FIRST
UH, THANKS BUT NO THANKS.
OR WOULD YOU RATHER JOIN US? HM?

SO, WHAT HAPPENED?
IF I MUST
SHUFFLE
HERE, FOLLOW ME.
NOW WOULD YOU TAKE A LOOK?
YEAH, I GOT SOME BURNS.
AND SO
PRETTY INTRIGUING, ISN'T IT?
A REAL MAN WOULD PROTECT BOTH THE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS AND THE TEA!
pat
OKAY, LITTLE LADY, YOU'RE ALL SET
REALLY, TAKI, I ASK YOU FOR ONE SIMPLE FAVOR, AND YOU BLOW IT?
THIS BAG IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF YOUR GREEN TEA

TAK! ACTUALLY LETTING SOMEONE ELSE USE HIS PRECIOUS BED? HOW VERY GENTLEMANLY OF YOU
UNLIKE YOU, DOC
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOJT? I'M ALWAYS A NICE GUY, AREN'T I?
I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO EAT ONCE IT'S MORNING
I'LL COME IN AND CHECK ON YOU LATER, SO HAVE A GOOD NIGHT.
SLAM
WELL, THIS IS A FIRST
YOU CAN SLEEP IN MY BED THE ONE IN THE CORNER
GO ON IN
I'm only nice to the ladies
GIVE ME A BREAK WHAT'S THERE TO GAIN FROM BEING NICE TO GUYS?
HEY, DOC DID YOU SEE THE BRAND ON THE KID'S ARM?
NO HUMANE HOSPITAL WOULD DO THAT
IT'S THE SAME NUMBER THAT WAS ON THE SHIRT
YEAH, TI WHAT A CRUEL THING TO DO

WELL, I CAN'T APPROVE OF IT
SO IS IT OKAY IF I KEEP HER HERE FOR A WHILE?
I DOUBT EVEN AN *INHUMANE* HOSPITAL WOULD DO IT


YOU TRYING TO SAY THE KID'S A DRUG ADDICT?!
NO!
I GUESS YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, BUT THE KID'S BODY WAS RIDDLED WITH NEEDLE PUNCTURE MARKS
RATHER, I ADVISE YOU TO TRY NOT TO GET YOURSELF TOO ATTACHED.
Okay all done.


YUP, YOU GOT THAT RIGHT
THAT'S WHY I'M SAYING YOU BETTER KEEP YOUR NOSE OUT OF IT
WELL THEN, THERE *IS* SOMETHING WEIRD!
THEN YOU THINK SHE WAS HOOKED UP TO AN INTRAVENOUS DRIP OR BLOOD TRANSFUSION MACHINE OR SOMETHING?
NO, SHE WAS TOO HEALTHY TO MOLV SHE'D NEED THOSE IT WAS JUST A GLANCE, SO I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE, BUT

I WONDER IF IT'LL BE OKAY LEAVING A KIDDO WITH A GYNECOLOGIST.
EXCUSE ME? ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT MASATAKA, THE 13TH GENERATION OF THE MUSHANOKOUJI CLINIC?
DON'T FORGET, I AM A CERTIFIED SURGEON TOO
BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE QUALIFIED AS AN INTERNAL MEDICAL DOCTOR, PEDIATRIC, PLASTIC SURGEON, AND EVEN ESTHETICIAN!
SO WHY ON EARTH ARE YOU A GYNECOLOGIST?!
THAT'S JUST MY HOBBY, TAKI AS A MAN.
I MEAN, HEY! QUIT TRYING TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
OKAY THEN, I'LL BE SEEING YOU
THANKS A BUNCH, DOC
YEAH YEAH YEAH
MY GOD, THAT KID'S A HANDFUL
SLAM
SORRY, DOC
IT'S NOT THAT I WON'T LISTEN TO YOUR ADVICE

YOU'RE THE ONE I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
THANKS, DOC!
See if I ever help you again.
ALL RIGHT, ALREADY I GIVE UP!
RIGHT, NIGHT
GOOD NIGHT!
NOW GET TA BED!
TAKI, I..
I'M JUST .
WORRIED ABOUT THE KID, I GUESS
Sign Mushanokouji Women's Clinic

YES, YES
MS HASHIMOTO? PLEASE PROCEED TO THE EXAMINING ROOM

BUT MY WAGE IS A MEASLY 600 YEN AN HOUR.
FOR BEING A FREELOADER IN MY HOUSE, HE HAS A BAD HABIT OF PICKING UP STRAY CATS THIS IS HIS WAY OF EARNING A LITTLE MONEY.
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
[NOTE 600 yen = about $6]
YUP! WELL, PART-TIME ANY-WAY
WHY IF IT ISN'T LITTLE TAKI! I SEE YOU'RE PLAYING THE DOCTOR'S ASSISTANT TODAY?
WELL, I WASN'T CAREFUL ENOUGH WITH THE CUTTING KNIFE AND
WELL THEN, MS HASHI-MOTO WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU TODAY?
OH, COME NOW, DOCTOR IT'S YOUR DUTY TO MEND ANY ILLNESS, LARGE OR SMALL YOU WERE THE ONE BRAGGING THAT YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF ANYTHING
MUST I REMIND YOU THAT THIS IS A GYNECOLOGY CLINIC?
THANK YOU THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU, MS. HASHI-MOTO YOU KNOW I HAVE A WEAK SPOT FOR OLDER WOMEN
FORGIVE ME, DOCTOR. I JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF LOOKING AT A HANDSOME MAN LIKE YOURSELF
WHY YOU CHEEKY LITTLE--
I BELIEVE SHE'S RIGHT, DR MASATAKA, 13TH GENERATION OF THE MUSHANO-KOUJI HOSPITAL.

Morning, kiddo!
There's some food downstairs, so help yourself when you get up.
-Taki
chirp cheep
GROOWL
gurgle
SPLENDOR
gurgle
gurgle
gurgle
?
?
?
CHEW CHEW

I SEE SO YOU CAN'T READ, HUH?
HUH? YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T UNDER-STAND IT?
SEE? IT'S THIS RIGHT HERE!
You can take off those gloves now
I LEFT A NOTE AND EVERY-THING!
WEREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
HEY THERE HOW COME DIDN'T YOU GO DOWN-STAIRS?
You got some rice stuck on you.
NO ONE TAJGHT YOU HOW TO READ?

ONCE YOU'RE DONE EATING, I'LL BRING YOU TO ONE OF MY FAVORITE PLACES--A PACHINKO PARLOR!
LISTEN UP!
OKAY THEN, I'LL TEACH YOU A THING OR TWO!
yup yup
HOW'S THE GRUB TASTE?
DON'T YOU HAVE A MOTHER? OR FATHER?
HMM... I SEE

[NOTE Pachinko is a form of gambling that somewhat resembles pinball.]

SEE, FIRST YOU PICK UP ONE OF THE BALLS THAT FALLS OUT
THEN YOU PUT IT IN HERE!
THEN, USE A LITTLE BIT OF STRENGTH RIGHT HERE, AND
AND TRY TO GET IT IN HERE!

WELL IF IT ISN'T TAK!! YOU HERE AGAIN?! YOU'VE GOT A REAL PAYING JOB, RIGHT? YOU OUGHTTA GIVE THIS PLACE A BREAK!
HA HA!
SEE? NOW IT'S YOUR TURN
SHOOW
SHIII

HEY, DOC! TAKE A LOOK AT ALL THIS!
THIS KID'S GOT SOME SKILL!
THE KID PICKED IT OUT FOR YOU!
DON'T BE SUCH A SPOIL-SPORT! HERE, I GOT YOU SOMETHING TOO!
For the Doc
ENJOY!
IS THAT SO.
YOU TEACHIN' HER MORE CRAP, TAKI?
THANKS A BUNCH, KID
HERE, GIVE IT TO THE DOC!
Here you go.

I'M SORRY, DOCTOR! BUT IT'S AN EMERGENCY! PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR!
SORRY, BUT THE CLINIC IS CLOSED FOR THE REST OF TODAY
DING DONG
BAM
I SAID OPEN THE DOOR!
MIGHT AS WELL LET THEM IN BEFORE THEY BREAK MY DOOR DOWN
HAND OVER #71
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW ANY MORE THAN THAT
ONCE WE HAVE #71 BACK, YOU CAN FORGET ANY OF THIS EVER HAPPENED
OF COURSE, WE'RE WILLING TO PAY YOU
HERE'S 100,000,000 YEN IN CASH THAT'S QUITE A LOT FOR HUSH MONEY

[NOTE 100,000,000 yen = about 1 million US dollars.]

THIS DOCTOR'S ALREADY UP TO HIS NECK IN MONEY, THANKS TO ILLEGAL BUSINESS
YOU GUYS ARE BIGGER IDIOTS THAN I THOUGHT, TALKING TO A DOCTOR ABOUT MONEY.
#71'S OVER-HEATING AGAIN!
NO! YOU CAN'T DO IT HERE!
OUCH! IT'S HOT!
IF MONEY WON'T WORK, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO RESORT TO FORCE!
GET 'EM!
WATCH OUT! SHE'S CATCHING ON FIRE!

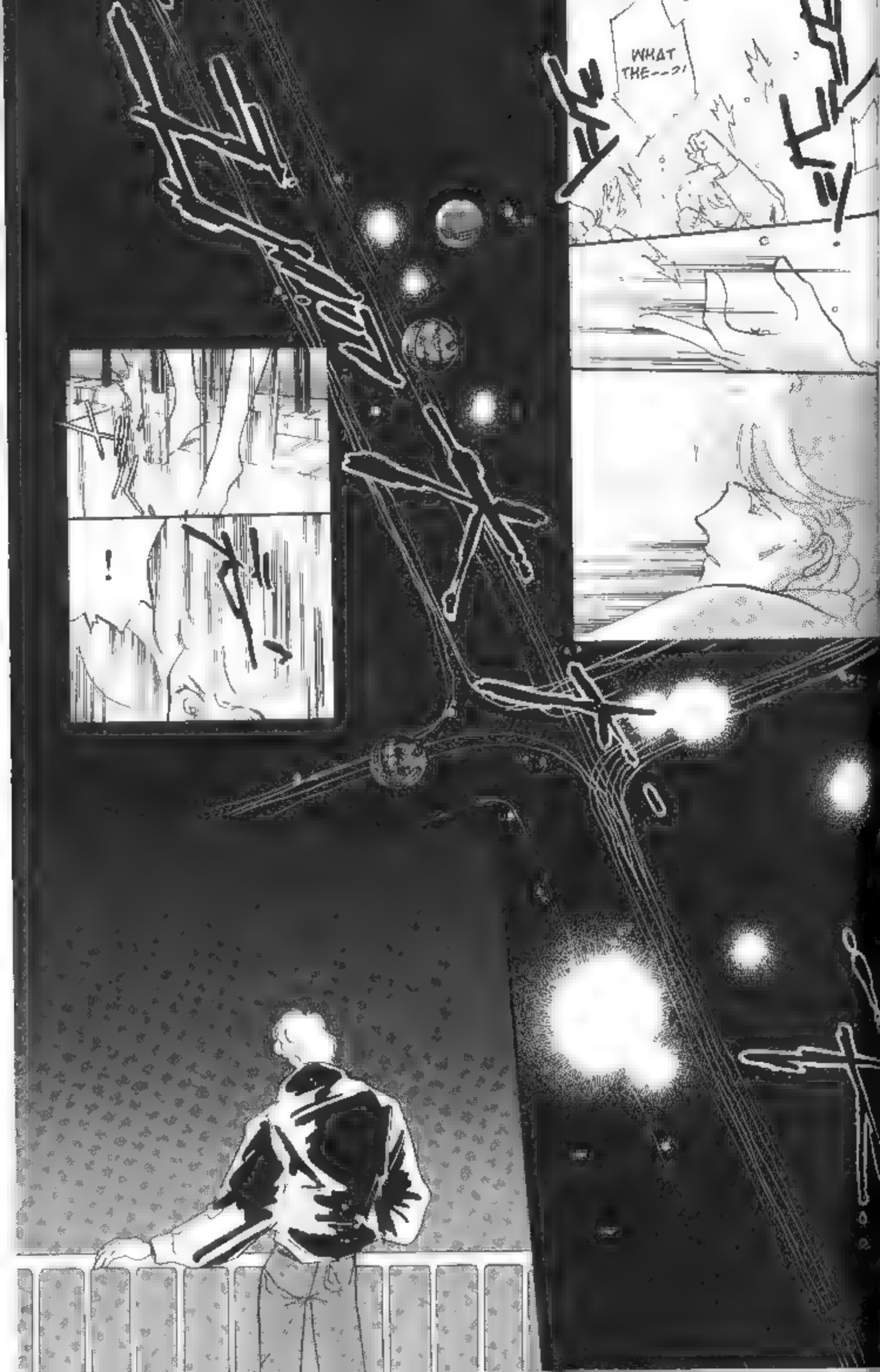
HURRY! COVER HER WITH INSULATION!
PHEW! GOOD THING YOU INVESTED IN FIRE INSURANCE, DOC! YOU CAN USE IT TO COVER THE DAMAGE
A HUMAN HEART WOULD BURST IF IT GOT TO SUCH A HIGH TEMPERATURE!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
WE HAVE TO GET #7! BACK TO THE LAB NO MATTER WHAT!
I THINK IT'S HER OWN BODY TEMPERATURE!
NO! DON'T! KEEP YOUR TEMPERATURE DOWN! CHILL OUT!
WHEN HER TEMPERATURE GETS HIGH ENOUGH, SHE BURSTS INTO FLAMES!
WHAT SORT OF SYSTEM IS THIS?!
BUT THIS?
NEVER KNOW WHAT CRAZY THINGS WILL HAPPEN IN YOUR LIFE
CAN'T YOU LOWER IT YOURSELF?!
WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING
WITHOUT BEING TAUGHT ANYTHING
COMPLETELY HELPLESS

WHAT THE-- TAKI, YOU IDIOT!
PSSSSSH
HOW COULD I EVER JUST HAND YOU OVER TO SOMEONE ELSE?
NO!!
I'M HOT WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?
TAKI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
You stupid stupid

YOU CAN CALL IT DOCTOR'S INTUITION OR WHATEVER YOU LIKE
I'D SUSPECTED IT FROM THE START
BUT I'M SURE THAT WAS NO NATURAL POWER IT SMELLED MAN-MADE
WHAT--
HEY, DON'T GET MAD AT ME!
YOU DON'T THINK THEY WERE RUNNING EXPERIMENTS ON THE KID, DO YOU?
THAT
THAT'S HORRIBLE!
9 OUT OF 10 CHANCES, IT'S A MEDICATION OF SOME KIND
I'M SURE THOSE BASTARDS WERE INJECTING THE KID WITH SOMETHING STRANGE
THEY'RE ON THE ROOF
THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO GO AFTER THEM, TAKI!

I SAID OPEN UP!
OPEN UP!
HAND OVER THE KID!
THERE'S NO WAY
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE HELICOPTER'S NOT HERE YET?!
HE COULD OPEN IT HIMSELF!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?!

WHAT AM I? I'M TAKI!
KILL THEM! I HATE THEM! KILL THEM NOW!!
NO!
THESE GUYS DESERVE TO BE PUNISH-ED!
KILL THEM, TAKI!
ONE STEP CLOSER AND I'LL KILL #71!
DON'T MOVE!
WE DON'T MIND BRINGING A DEAD BODY BACK TO THE LAB
DON'T YOU EVER SAY THAT AGAIN!
PLEASE! GET RID OF THEM!
I SAID NO! NO KILLING!


WHAT THE--?!
!

WH-WHEN-EVER I NEED YOU?
YUP! ANY-TIME ANY-WHERE
EVEN IF IT MEANS YOU COULD DIE?
SO YOU CAN SPEAK, CAN'T YOU?
LET'S HEAR YOU SAY MY NAME TAKI
HELP ME
IF YOU EVER NEED MY HELP, YOU CAN CALL MY NAME
AND I'LL BE RIGHT BY YOUR SIDE
HANG ON TIGHT NOW
DON'T LET GO

HELP ME!
HELP ME, TAKI!
EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!
HELP
TAKI...!

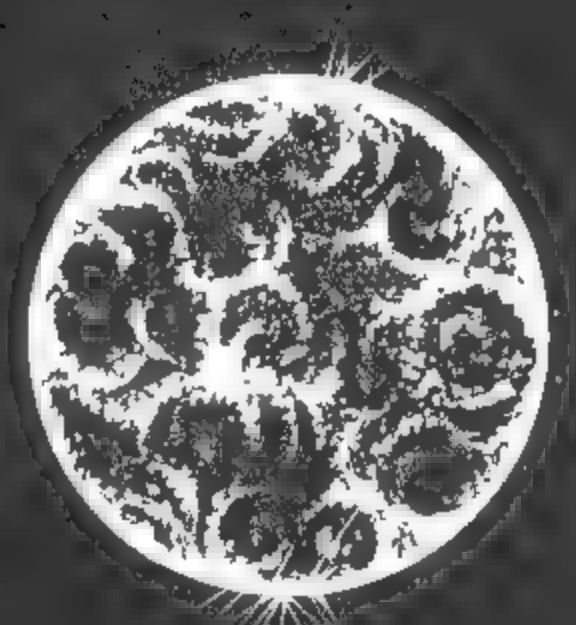
I WANT YOU TO FIND SOMEONE TO LOVE MAN OR WOMAN, IT DOESN'T MATTER
JUST SO LONG AS YOU LOVE THEM SO MUCH YOU WANT TO CRY
AND IF YOU DON'T FIND ANYONE ELSE, THEN CHOOSE ME!
THERE'S A GOOD KIDDO
YOU WANT TO CHANGE WHO YOU ARE, RIGHT? THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT, RIGHT?
THEN, I'LL TEACH YOU SOME-THING
AND THEN
YOU'LL GROW UP TO BE A WONDER-FUL PERSON
ARE YOU SURE?
I'M SURER THAN SURE

BUT KISSES DON'T ONLY HAVE TO BE OUT OF LUST
SAME AS YOU, DOC!
OOH, YOU SURE DON'T WASTE ANY TIME
YOU LADY-KILLER
OH YEAH? THEN WHAT ELSE ARE THEY FOR?
A RITUAL
FOR LOVING SOMEONE
THAT'S WHAT THIS KISS IS FOR
AS RITUALS

I SEE THEN
HOW ABOUT CHIHAYA?
I DON'T
I MEAN A REAL NAME DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T HAVE ONE
#71
SO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME, KID?
THAT'S NOT A NAME
LET'S GET BACK IT'S GETTING COLD
YOU GOT IT, DOC
IT WAS THE NAME OF SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO ME, SO I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU
CHI-HAYA?
ER, NOT EXACTLY, BUT CLOSE
SOMEONE PRECIOUS TO YOU? WAS IT YOUR MOTHER?
"CHIHAYA"
THAT'S A NICE NAME
CHIHAYA.

Earth

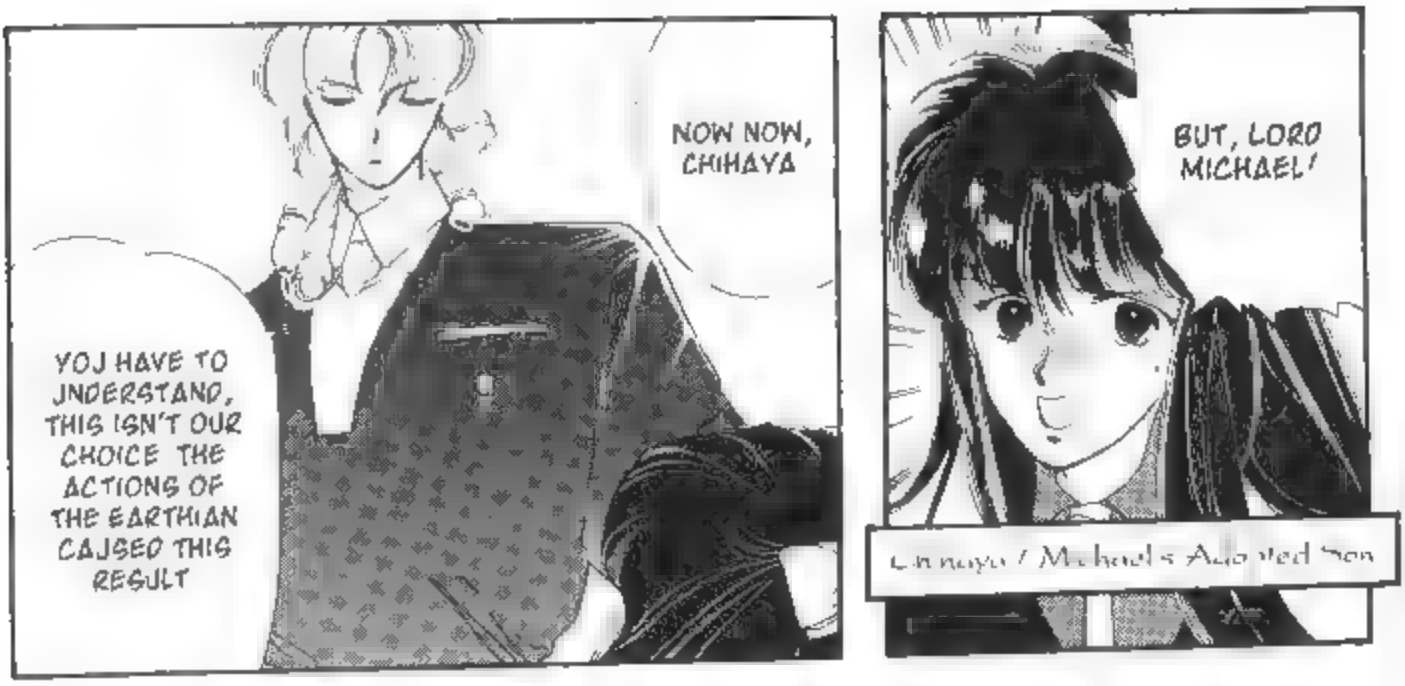
The third planet from the Sun. A beautiful planet of water and [illegible]. Earthlings live here.



Many [illegible] years have passed since the last group of Angels known as the Seekers left the planet Earth.

The Angels on Eden divide and check for the pluses and minuses of the Earthman's actions from their two orbiting bases. One is Valhalla on the moon. The other is Jsuma on Earth.

Archange Michael / Space Army Commander in Chief


NOW NOW, CHIHAYA
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, THIS ISN'T OUR CHOICE THE ACTIONS OF THE EARTHIAN CAUSED THIS RESULT
BUT, LORD MICHAEL!

Chihaya / Michael's Adopted Son

The angels are divided into groups of two with one member in each class assigned to carry out the investigation of pluses or minuses respectively.

Kaoru Sawatari, Sakura Tamura / Minus Checker

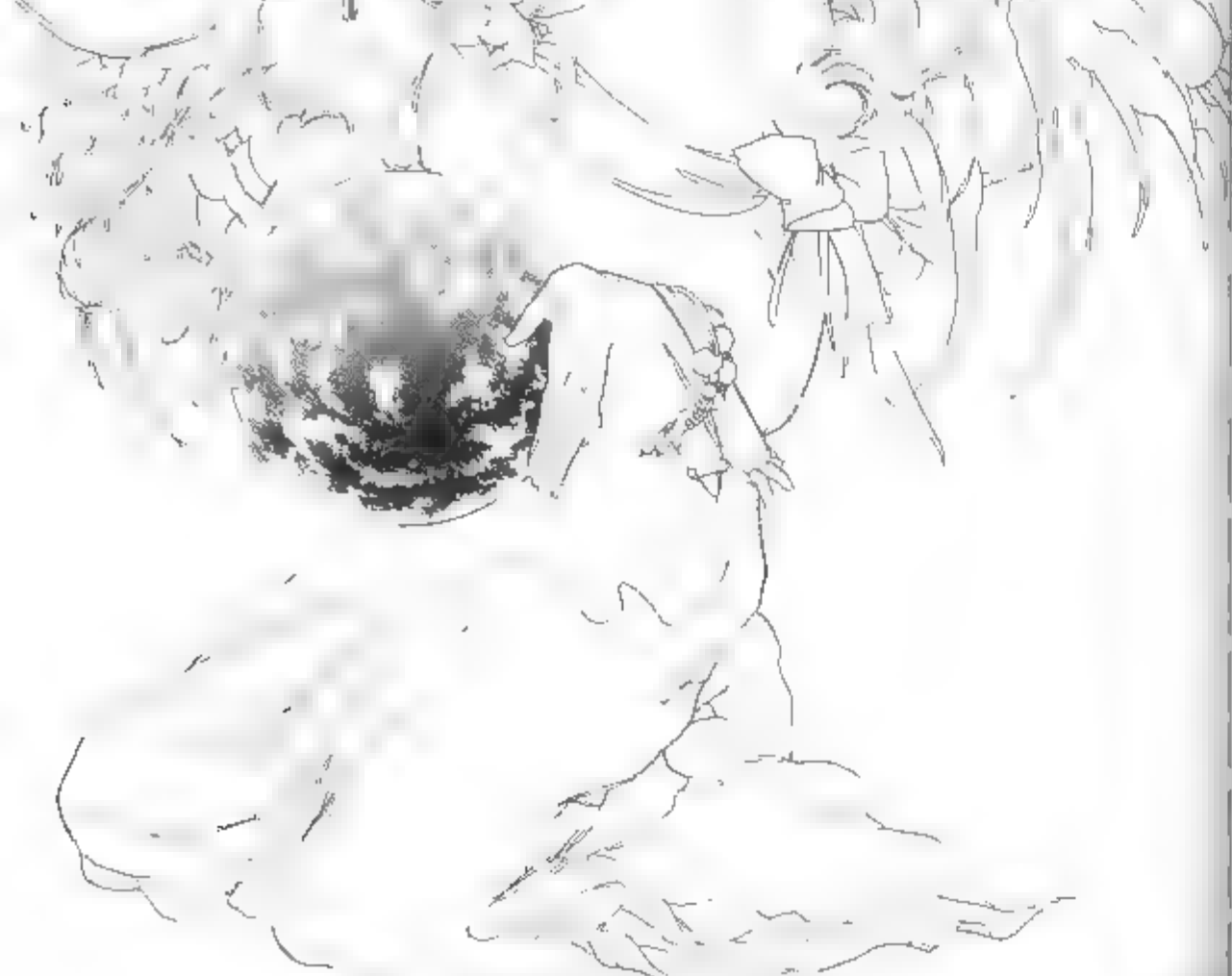
Chihaya / Plus Checker

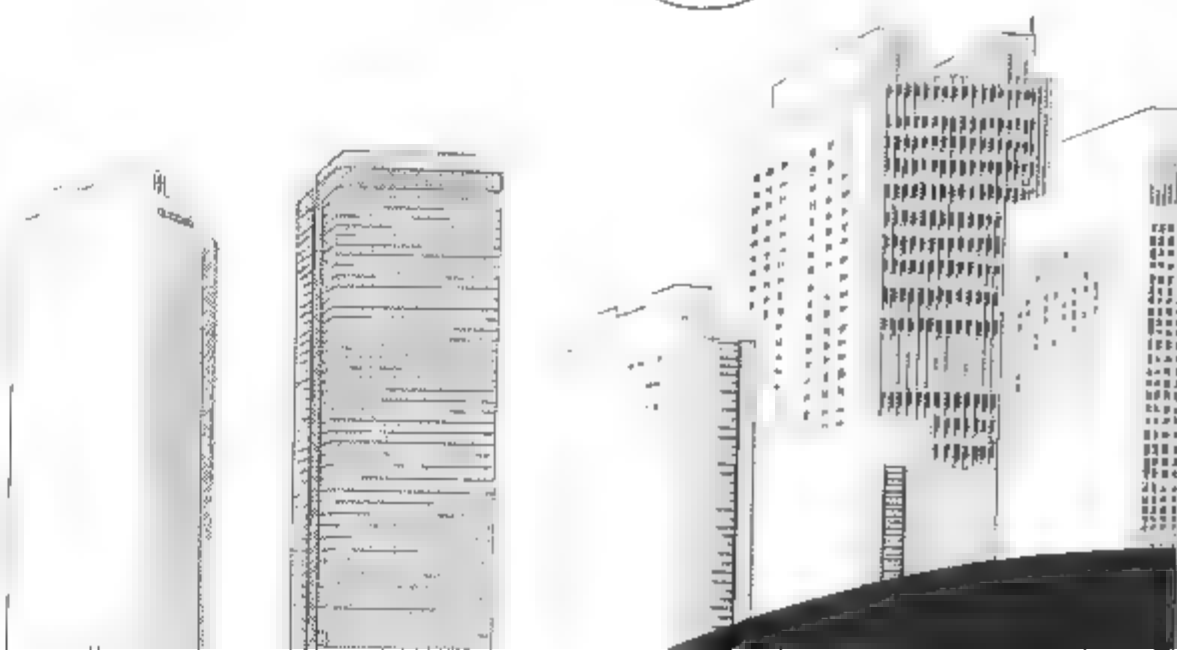
And then

AND WHO ELSE WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTNER WITH YOU ANYWAY?!
BESIDES, WHOEVER HEARD OF A TEAM OF A PLUS AND PLUS?!
WHAT CAN I SAY? I DON'T LIKE THEM BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE THEM
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO HATE THEM, KAGETSUYA?

Hey, you two, stop it!

ETERNAL ROMANCE PART 2

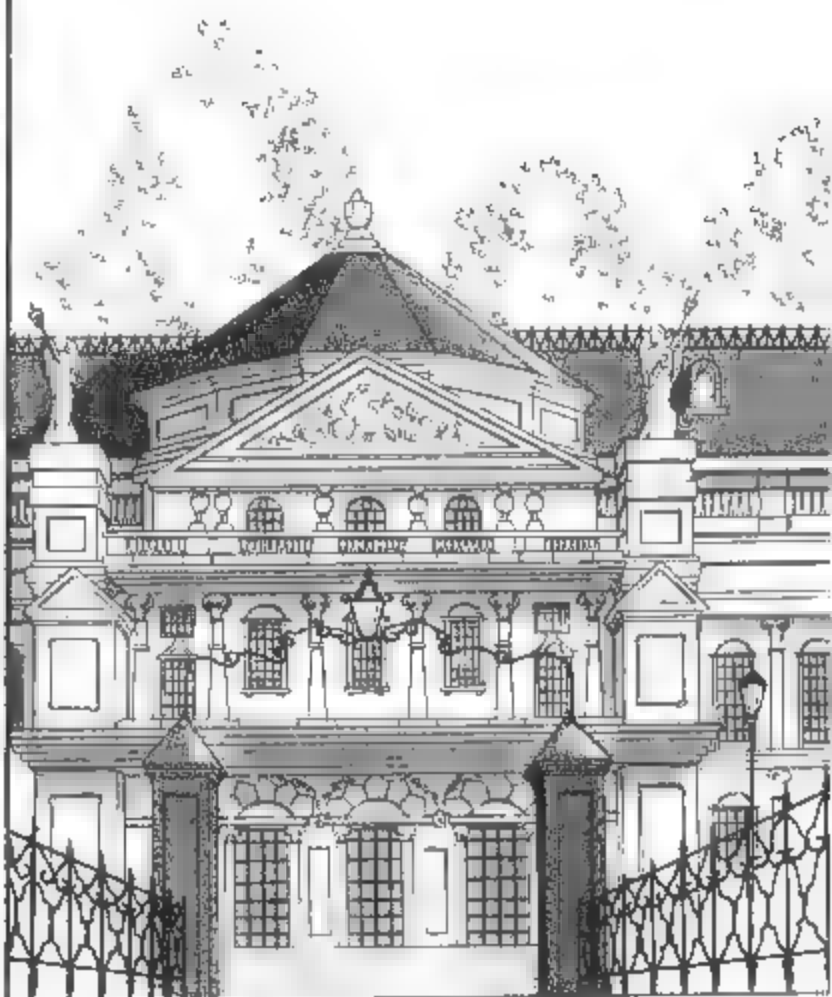




SO

I CAN'T BELIEVE CHIHAYA REALLY WENT

Planet Eden Michael's Mansion



OH?

I NEVER REALLY INTENDED FOR HIM TO BE A CHECKER.

HE'S MADE HIS DECISION
THOUGH I DO BELIEVE YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TOLD HIM HE COULD CHOOSE WHATEVER HE WANTED TO DO IF HE GRADUATED AT THE TOP OF HIS CLASS
Rapture / Michael's Aide
IT WASN'T KAGETSUYA'S FAULT CHIHAYA HAS PLENTY OF POTENTIAL
AND TO IMAGINE THAT KAGE-TSUYA CAME IN SECOND
HE EVEN SKIPPED SOME LEVELS I REALLY DIDN'T THINK HE'D MANAGE TO BE FIRST
AND IT IS QUITE STRANGE HOW MUCH CHIHAYA CARES FOR EARTH
THAT'S WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT!

THAT'S WHAT I CAN'T STAND MOST

THAT CHILD WILL BE BETRAYED

HURT

AND BROUGHT TO TEARS

WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS HIS TIME ON EARTH WILL BE ENOUGH TO CHANGE HIM

THAT MAY BE TRUE

HOWEVER, LORD MICHAEL

I BELIEVE THAT A CHILD LIKE CHIHAYA MAY HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY THE ILLUSION

HIS IDEALS ARE FAR TOO BEAUTIFUL

LIKE AN ILLUSION.

YES, THAT'S TRUE

THERE'S NOT THAT MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EDEN AND EARTH.

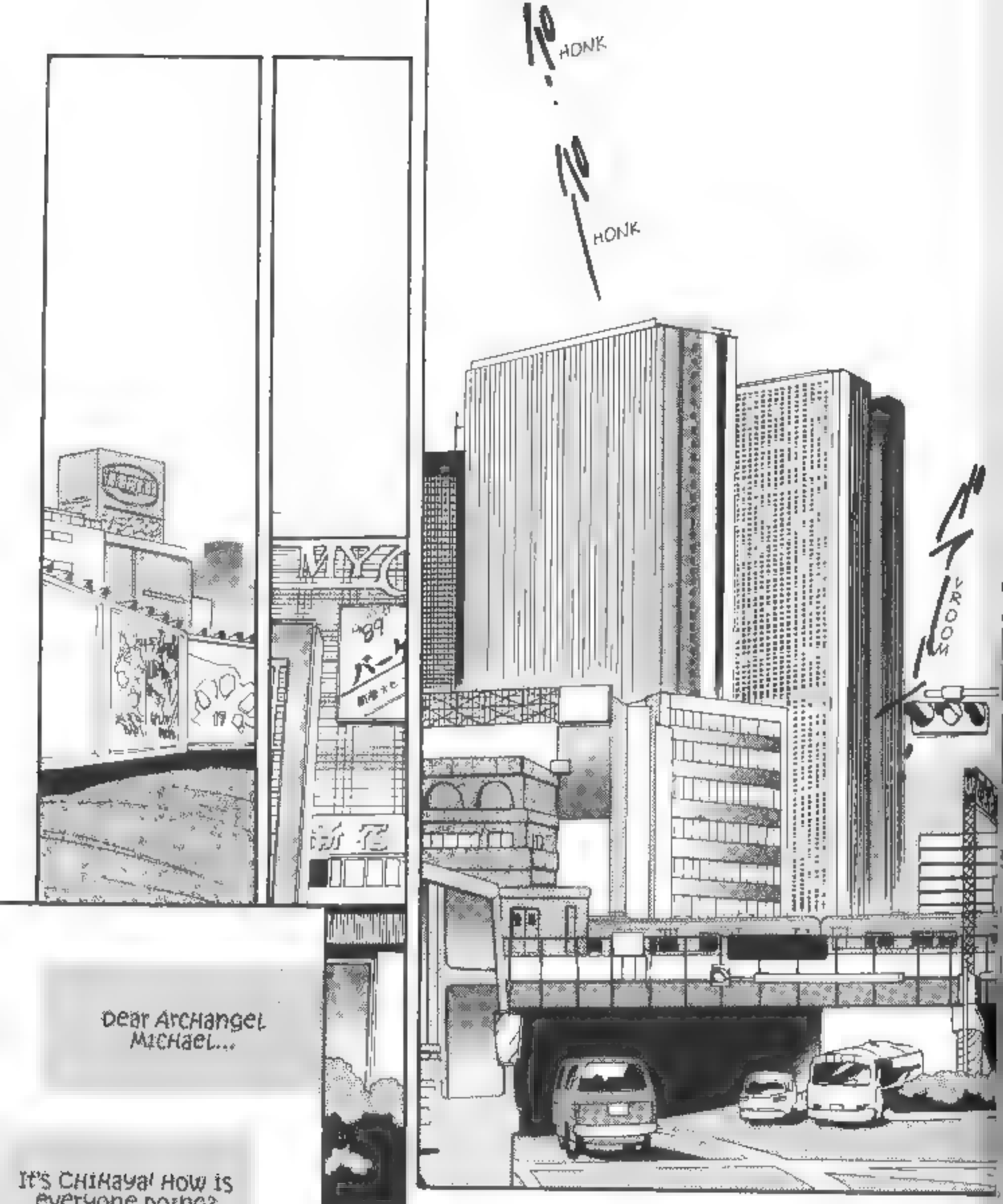
THERE ARE BOTH GOOD *AND* BAD PEOPLE LIVING THERE

CHIHAYA'S IDEALS

IT'S CERTAINLY NOT WHAT CHIHAYA THINKS IT IS

IT'S CLEARLY NO "DREAM PLANET"

RAPHAEL
BE-
SIDES
. HE ISN'T
GOING ALONE


HONK
HONK
VROOM
Dear Archangel Michael...
It's Chikaya! How is everyone doing?

I am currently on my first trip down to earth as a Checker. Earth has turned out to be exactly how I'd studied it in SCHOOL.

O-OKAY
Here, move it over here
REMEMBER, ANYTHING YOU DO, I TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR TOO.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN MY GROUP, YOU BETTER DO YOUR WORK EFFICIENTLY AND HONESTLY!

My partner is Kagetsuya.

BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING THAT THEY DON'T LIKE TO EAT, SO IT'S OKAY
AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU DON'T LIKE EATING, TELL ME NOW I WON'T STAND FOR PICKY EATERS.

Right now, we are in the city called Tokyo in Japan.

As soon as we're done putting everything in order we're heading off to California in the USA.

OKAY!
Who knows
will change him?
his beloved planet Earth.
just how

WE MUST NOT PERMIT HIM TO GET AWAY!

ATTENTION ALL PERSONEL!

AAOOGHA

AAOOGHA

AAOOGHA

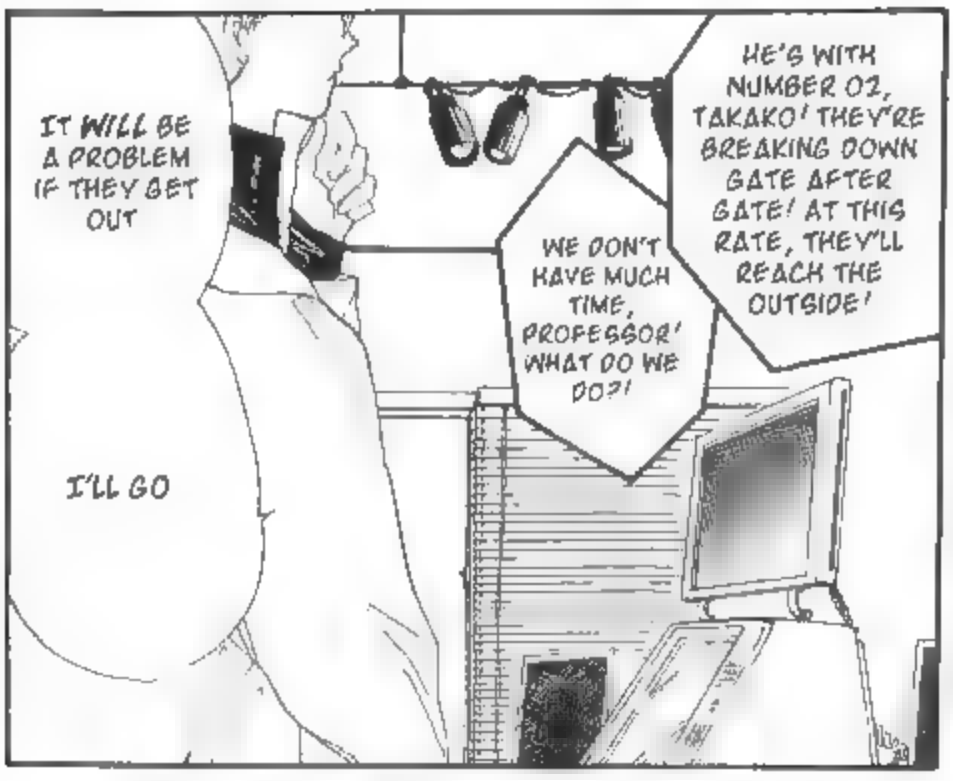
IT'S TAKI!!

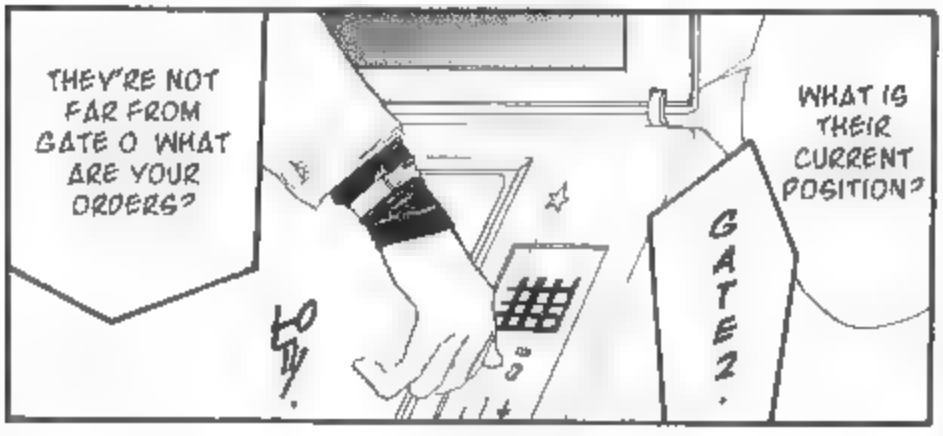
THE ESCAPEE IS PROFESSOR ASHIYA'S PRODUCT, NUMBER 01!

TAKI!!

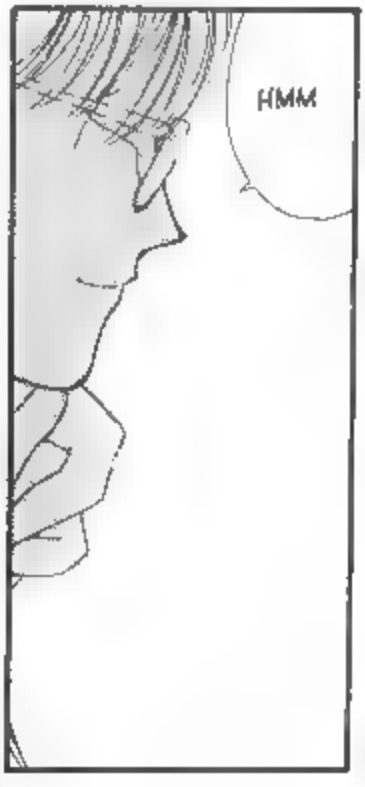
WE HAVE AN ESCAPEE WHO MUST BE CAPTURED!

I SEE SO TAKI'S ESCAPED?


IT WILL BE A PROBLEM IF THEY GET OUT
I'LL GO
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, PROFESSOR! WHAT DO WE DO?!
HE'S WITH NUMBER 02, TAKAKO! THEY'RE BREAKING DOWN GATE AFTER GATE! AT THIS RATE, THEY'LL REACH THE OUTSIDE!


THEY'RE NOT FAR FROM GATE 0 WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS?
WHAT IS THEIR CURRENT POSITION?
GATE 2.

BRAVO.
PROFESSOR ASHIYA! HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM?!


HMM

HOW ON EARTH COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?
COULD THIS MEAN HE'S DEVELOPED HIS OWN CONSCIOUSNESS?
AND HE WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE MY TOY

I'M ASKING HOW MANY PEOPLE HE'S KILLED
SO, HOW MANY HAS HE KILLED SO FAR?
THERE'S NO-THING TO WORRY ABOUT
HUH?
N-NO HUMAN CASUALTIES YET, SIR. BUT IT'S PROBABLY ONLY A MATTER OF TIME
BUT AS FOR THE CYBER-NOIDS, HE'S ALREADY DESTROYED MORE THAN FORTY
NUMBER 01 AND 02 HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED NOT TO LAY A HAND ON HUMANS
FORGET THE CYBER-NOIDS AND USE THE SECURITY GUARDS!
THAT MEANS HIS PAVLOV SYSTEM IS STILL WORKING
I'M ON MY WAY OUT NOW
YOU MIGHT GET A BIT BRUISED UP, BUT NOTHING CLOSE TO DEATH. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SURROUND THEM EASILY
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

TAKI AND TAKAKO WOULDN'T DARE HARM A HAIR ON MY HEAD
AFTER ALL, I'M PROFESSOR ASHIYA, THE FATHER OF THE BIOHUMANOIDS

THE DOC WAS RIGHT! THEY WON'T EVEN TOUCH US!
CALL THE CYBER-NOIDS BACK AND BRING IN HUMAN REINFORCE-MENTS TO SURROUND THEM!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
TAKAKO!
TAKI!
AHOOGAH
AHOOGAH
AHOOGAH
AHOOGAH
AHOOGAH

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS LITTLE ESCAPADE, TAKI? YOU DON'T LIKE IT HERE AT THE HOUSE?
PLEASE LET US GO, PROFESSOR
I MUST ADMIT, YOU IMPRESS ME, TAKI
YOU'VE UTTERLY DESTROYED 51 CYBER-NOIDS, AND INJURED EIGHT RESEARCHERS AND 14 SECURITY GUARDS

I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED ANY LESS FROM MY ULTIMATE CREATION
PLEASE LET US GO FREE, PROFESSOR
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T DO THAT
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF LETTING YOU TWO GO
!
NO, PROFESSOR! DON'T!
TAKAKO!

NOOOOOO!!!

IN SHORT, HE WAS MADE WITH THE EXACT SAME ELEMENTS AS A REGULAR HUMAN
BLOOD, BONES, MUSCLE BUT ALL FAR STRONGER THAN THE NORM. MY PRECIOUS
YOU SIMPLETONS MAY NOT KNOW THIS, BUT THESE BIO-HUMANOIDS ARE QUITE STURDILY BUILT.
THEY WERE CREATED USING ARTIFICIAL PROTEIN AND HYBRID DNA. THE CELLS IN HIS VEINS ARE EXTRA-FORTIFIED
PROFESSOR! STOP! PLEASE STOP!
...DOLL.
TAKI!!
!

NO!!!
NO
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YES, JUST LIKE A HUMAN
PASS ME THE SHOT-GUN
STOP IT, PROFESSOR!
DON'T FORGET THAT WE CAN STILL FEEL PHYS-ICAL PAIN!
NOW BE A GOOD GIRL AND STEP ASIDE
BUT HE'S IMMOBILIZED, WE CAN TAKE HIM BACK HOME
I HYPOTHESIZE EVEN ONE HUNDRED SHOTS WITH THIS WON'T BE ENOUGH TO STOP TAK!

NO! YOU'LL KILL HIM!
TAKI! RUN FOR IT!
TAKAKO!!
STOP THIS AT ONCE, TAKAKO!
GET OUT OF HERE, TAKI!
BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN MOVE ANYMORE.
GO!!

DAMMIT!
BRING HER BACK TO THE LAB!

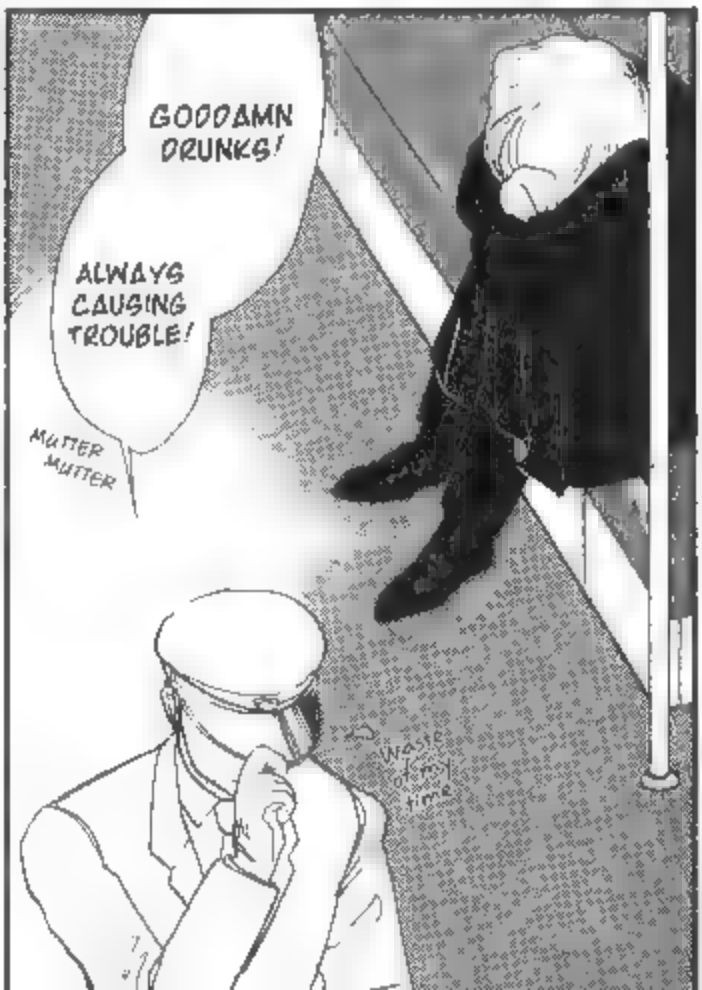
I WAS PLANNING FOR ONLY TAKI TO ESCAPE FROM THE START!
TOO BAD FOR YOU THAT ONLY TAKI GOT AWAY
BECAUSE I KNEW IT WASN'T POSSIBLE FOR BOTH OF US TO ESCAPE FROM YOU
OH, I DON'T THINK HE'S OUT OF THE WOODS JUST YET, MY DEAR
MY LITTLE TOY STILL HAS THE CITY TO CONTEND WITH

JR Subway Seibu Line
HUH ? WHERE AM I NOW?
WHERE WAS THAT NEW YORK HOTEL LOCATED AGAIN?

IF I'M LATE AGAIN, KAGETSUYA WILL HAVE MY HEAD!
IT'S HARD ENOUGH TRYING TO MEMORIZE THE TRAIN LINES AROUND HERE!
I knew I should've taken the bus!

I KNOW I HAVE TO LEAVE BY THE WEST EXIT

HEY, MISTER! WAKE UP! THIS IS THE LAST STOP!
WE'RE IN SHINJUKU!


GOODAMN DRUNKS!
ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE!
MUTTER MUTTER
Waste of my time

DRUNK ..? NO!
THIS IS
. THE SMELL OF BLOOD!
UH, EX-CUSE ME ?
BUT WHOSE BLOOD? IS IT HUMAN? HIS OWN? OR SOMEONE ELSE'S?

OR..

DID SOMEONE ELSE

. HURT HIM?

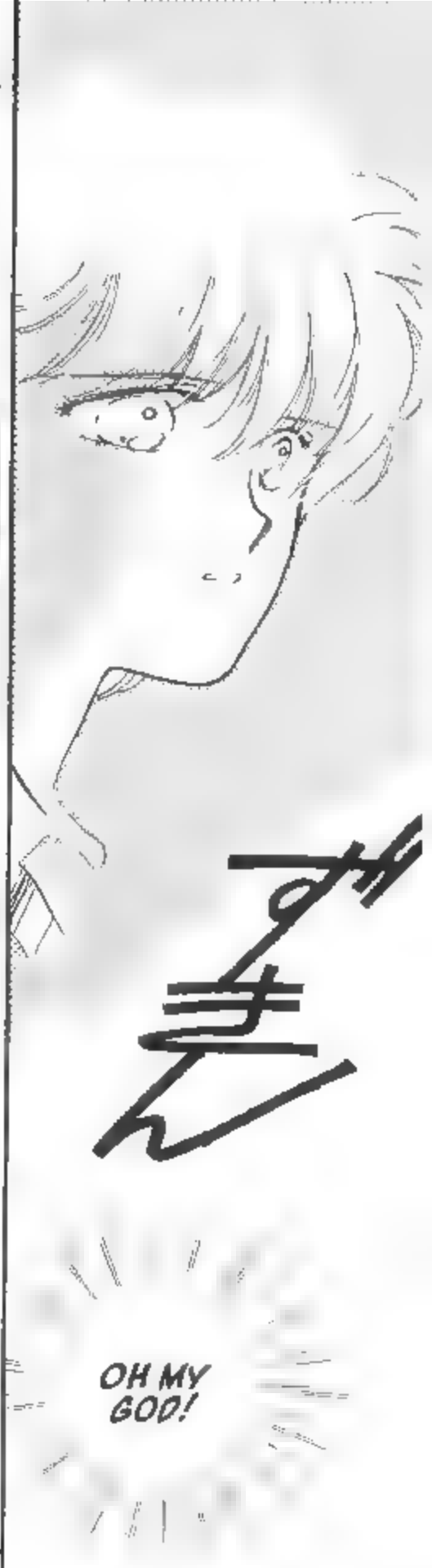
OH

UH WH-
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?
ER
N-NO
I'M
FINE

I JUST
TALKED
TO AN
EARTHIAN!
OH NO.
OH NO, OH
NO!

I TALKED TO
A REGULAR
PERSON!

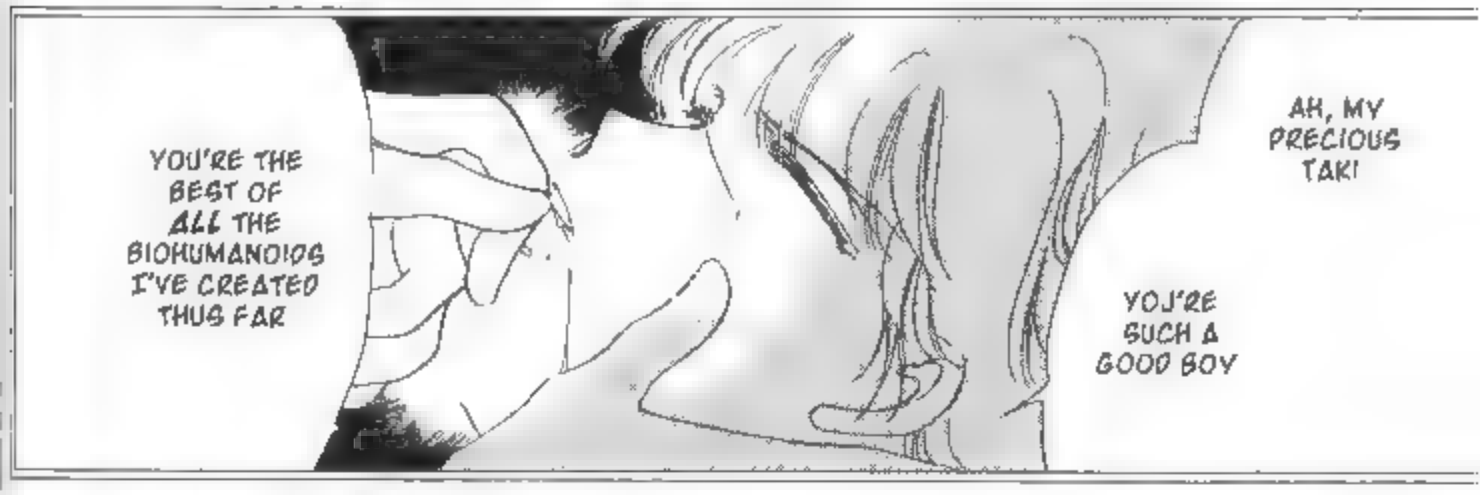
WH-WHY
ARE YOU
CRYING?
HE SURE IS
PRETTY

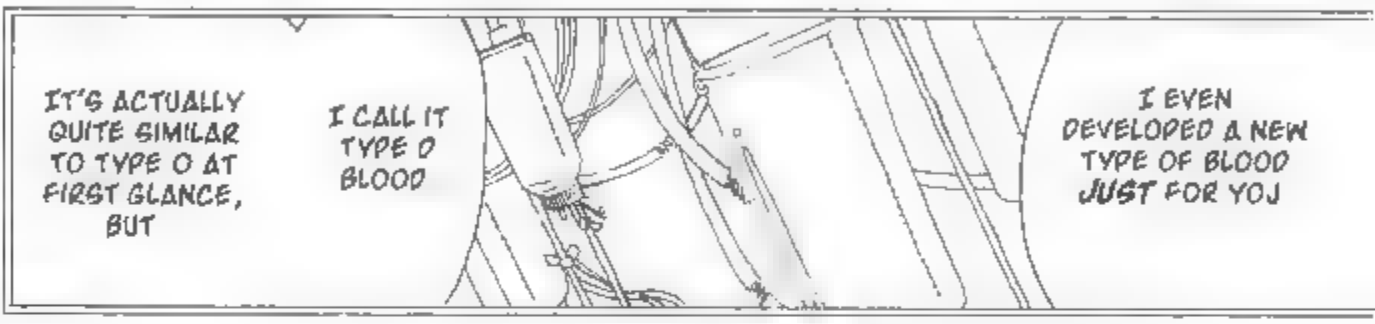

OH MY
GOD!

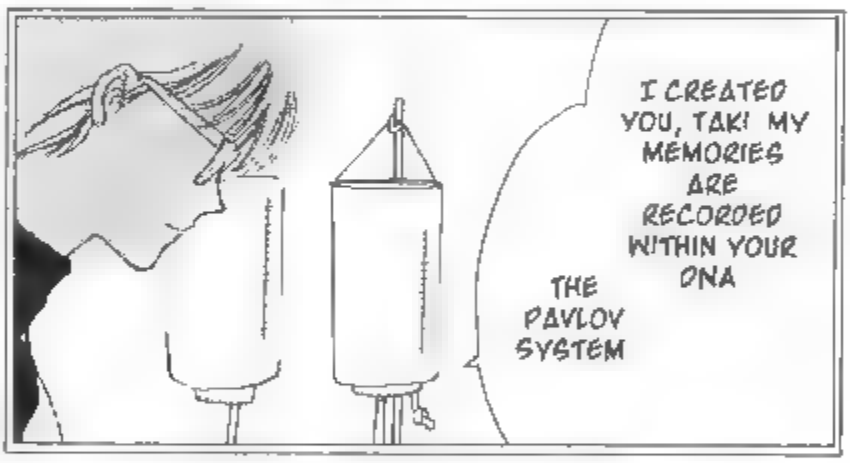
B-BUT
A-AH..
NEVER MIND..
IT'S NOTHING
. CAN I ASK YOU A QUES-TION?
.....
THERE'S NOTHING ABNORMAL ABOUT ME, RIGHT?
I LOOK . COMPLETELY NORMAL, DON'T I?

UH, WELL, YOU'RE COVERED IN BLOOD AND YOUR CLOTHES ARE A MESS.
I CAN'T EXACTLY SAY YOU LOOK NORMAL, BUT I KNOW THAT'S NOT REALLY WHAT YOU MEAN.
I'M NO DIFFERENT FROM YOU, RIGHT?
RIGHT
WELL...YOU MIGHT BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM ME, BUT

THIS HAD TO BE THE WORST NIGHT OF MY LIFE
I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR
TAKAKO
I HURT THE PEOPLE AROUND ME FOR MY OWN SAKE
AND LEFT BEHIND A FRIEND TO SAVE MYSELF.
TO-NIGHT
I WAS NOTHING BUT A COWARD.
BUT, PROFESSOR I'M NOT JUST YOUR DOLL


YOU'RE THE BEST OF ALL THE BIOHUMANOIDS I'VE CREATED THUS FAR
AH, MY PRECIOUS TAK!
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD BOY


IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE SIMILAR TO TYPE O AT FIRST GLANCE, BUT
I CALL IT TYPE O BLOOD
I EVEN DEVELOPED A NEW TYPE OF BLOOD JUST FOR YOU


I CREATED YOU, TAK! MY MEMORIES ARE RECORDED WITHIN YOUR DNA
THE PAVLOV SYSTEM

IN A SENSE, I AM YOUR GOD
YOU CAN'T BETRAY ME
PROFESSOR

THERE IS NO WAY YOU CAN DEFY HUMANS.
BUT, PROFESSOR...
AND YOU ARE MERELY AN IMITATION OF LIFE AN ARTIFICIAL BEING CREATED BY THE HANDS OF MAN

BUT I'M NOT PLANNING ON KILLING ANYONE EITHER
MY ONE AND ONLY. DOLL.
I DON'T MIND DOING AS I'M TOLD
I EVEN LOVE THE PROFESSOR.
..AM I REALLY JUST A FAKE? DOES THAT MEAN I'M ALREADY DEAD? THEN WHY IS MY HEART STILL BEATING?
BUT .
PROFESSOR, I'M NOT PLANNING ON DISOBEYING ANYONE.
I'LL ADD NEW INPUT IN TIME AFTER ALL, YOU WERE CREATED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES
MY PRECIOUS TAKI .
THAT IS THE TRUE MISSION OF THE "HOUSE" ORGANIZATION ANYWAY

AM I.. AM I REALLY ONLY A FAKE?

THAT'S ALL

I WANTED TO KNOW

THEN.

..WHAT IS REAL?

WHO IS REAL?

PROFESSOR AM I REALLY JUST A SIMULACRUM . A FORGERY?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN IMITATION OF LIFE?

HE'S HOPELESS.
WHAT THE HELL COULD HE BE UP TO?! PROBABLY GOT CARELESS AND--
HE'S LATE!!
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT--ESPECIALLY AFTER I WAS ASKED TO LOOK AFTER HIM!
Bah!
I SHOULD JUST LEAVE IT BE.
BUT MAYBE I'M GETTING TOO WORKED UP OVER THIS.
CHIKAYA'S JUST THAT KIND OF PERSON SO...
KAGE-TSUYA.

AND I'M NOT JUST ASKING YOU AS A FRIEND.
YES, SIR.
...I HOPE I CAN TRUST YOU TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
.....
BLACK HAIR AND BLACK EYES. HE'S THE ONLY ONE OF HIS KIND ON EDEN.
CHIHAYA, THE MUTATION

HE HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH A CERTAIN FEW ALLIES AND SUPPORTERS.

SINCE THE TIME WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM SCHOOL AT THE TOP OF HIS CLASS AND BEGAN HIS MILITARY DUTIES..

DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT ON EARTH?
IT'S WHETHER OR NOT IT'S HAVING A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON HIM.
PERSONALLY, IT'S NOT SO MUCH THE PLUS AND MINUS BUSINESS THAT HAS ME WORRIED
HE'S THE ONE WHO MADE VALE-DICTORIAN!
B-BUT I CAN'T DO THAT!
WELL, YOU TWO HAVE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE MILITARY SCHOOL, SO I THINK IT'S A GOOD PAIRING.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT
..KAGE-TSUYA
I'M SUR-PRISED
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT I CAME IN THIRD
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
LORD MICHAEL?!

THAT WOULD BE ME.
YES.
THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO WORRY.
YOU MEAN, THERE WERE TWO OTHER STUDENTS ABOVE YOU?!
THIRD?!
I MADE VALEDICTORIAN OVER LORD MICHAEL.
!
LADY LUCIFEL.
BUT THEN WHO CAME IN SECOND?

RAPHAEL!
LADY LUCIFEL ?
I I NEVER KNEW
YES. LORD MICHAEL'S YOUNGER SISTER
SHE DIED, THOUGH
LONG BEFORE EITHER OF YOU WERE BORN
LORD MICHAEL?
IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT AFTER ALL, RAPHAEL'S THE ONE WHO BROUGHT IT UP
I-I'M SORRY

WOULD YOU PLEASE LOOK AFTER THEM WHILE I'M AWAY?
LOOK AT THE ROSES!
EVEN THE LATE ONES ARE BUDDING NOW!
OF COURSE. JUST BE SURE TO COME BY AND VISIT DURING THE HOLIDAYS.
LADY GABRIEL..
YES, OF COURSE
WELL, I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME WE TOOK OUR LEAVE NOW, KAGETSUYA
LOOK WHAT CHIHAYA GAVE ME!
AH, GABRIEL.

YES... I'LL DO MY BEST
GOOD LUCK, KAGETSUYA!
YOU ARE HIS ELDER, YOU KNOW
AND, KAGETSUYA, DO BE SURE TO LOOK AFTER CHIHAYA.

HEARING THOSE WORDS FROM LADY GABRIEL WAS ALMOST ENOUGH..
BUT IT WAS ALSO A RELIEF TO KNOW THAT LORD MICHAEL DIDN'T MAKE VALEDICTORIAN IN HIS DAY

HMPH..
THOUGH IT DIDN'T HELP ANY TO KNOW THAT RAPHAEL DID.

DING DONG
KAGE-TSUYA, I'M HOME!
YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS?!
JUST WHAT THE HECK HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO? YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST CALLED--
GOOD EVE-NING
N-NOW PLEASE DON'T GET ANGRY, BUT
AND WHO IS THIS?

ちゃん!
BRINGING HOME SOME STRANGER?! JUST WHAT WERE YOU THINKING...
I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE HIM THERE!
I COULDN'T HELP IT!
YES YOU COULD HAVE! AND I CAN TELL THERE'S SOMETHING UP WITH HIM!
HIS CLOTHES ARE TATTERED AND BLOOD-STAINED! THOSE'RE OBVIOUSLY KNIFE SLASHES.
NOT TO MENTION HE'S COVERED ALL OVER WITH SCRATCHES AND SCRAPES!

I DON'T KNOW THERE'S SOME-THING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM
A REGULAR HUMAN WOULD BE IN AN UPROAR!
SOME-THING'S ODD ABOUT HIM
CAN'T YOJ SENSE IT?
I THINK HE'S A GOOD GUY
YEAH, I'M NOT TOO SURE EITHER BUT...
IDIOT!
YOU DON'T JUST GO AROUND BRINGING RANDOM MEN INTO YOJR HOTEL ROOM!
KAGE-TSUYA?!

YOU'RE IN-JURED.
SHOW ME THE WOUNDS.
.....
HE'S SURPRISINGLY FRIENDLY.
I'M SORRY FOR THE TROJBLE.
COME ON THEN!
HURRY IT UP!
NO BUTS!
THIS IS NO TIME TO ACT TIMID!
HUH? OH, TH-THERE'S NO NEED TO--
SIGH...
TAKE OFF YOUR SHIRT

HIS CHEST TOO.
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG HERE
THERE'RE WOUNDS ON HIS NECK
LOOKS PRETTY DEEP
IT WAS ALMOST LIKE HIS NECK WAS CUT OPEN

NOW I WON'T BUTT IN ASKING WHAT HAPPENED, BUT. .
HUH?

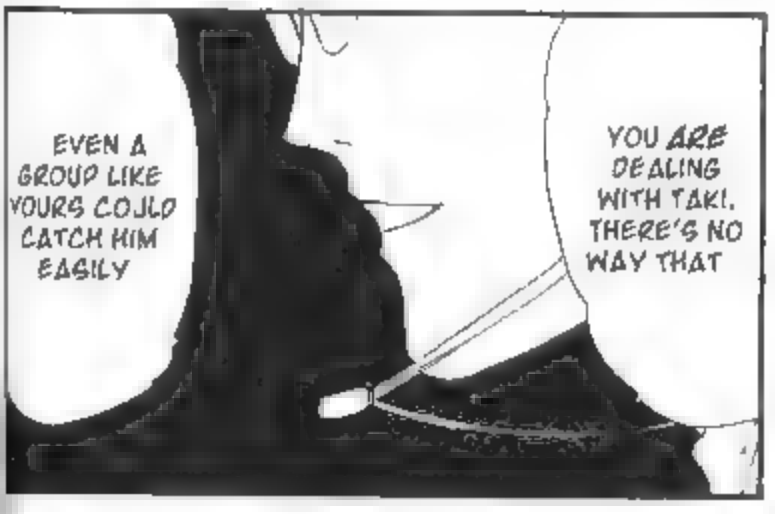
RIGHT THEY AREN'T VERY SERIOUS AT ALL.
GOOD THING THEY WEREN'T TOO DEEP
YOUR WOUNDS.

I AM RUNNING ON FORTIFIED CELLS. I HAVE AN EXTRA AMOUNT OF BLOOD AND HEALING ABILITIES.
I'M SO GLAD. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I'LL GO HEAT UP SOMETHING FOR YOU TO EAT
AND I'LL GO FIND YOU A CHANGE OF CLOTHES
SLAM
HEY..
DO YOU SUP-POSE
.HIS CAROTID ARTERY WAS
.CUT?

...
RIGHT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
UNLESS HE WAS NEVER ALIVE TO BEGIN WITH.
NO IT COULDN'T BE
IF SO, HE SHOULD BE DEAD!
BUT. HE STILL SMELLS LIKE AN EARTHIAN.
SO, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
AND THIS IS KAGE-TSUYA!
I'M CHI-HAYA!
OOH! THAT'S A CUTE NAME!
IT'S TAKI.

TWENTY, HUH?
OOPS! I-I MEANT TWENTY!
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
TWO YEARS OLD!
T-TWO?
TECHNICALLY, I WAS BUILT TWO YEARS AGO.
WHAT ARE YOU?

THAT'S ALL I KNOW
THANK YOU FOR GOING THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE OF HELPING ME
KAGE-TSUYA?
IT'S FINE
WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE YOUR REASONS FOR BEING SECRETIVE, JUST AS WE DO
BUT I'M JUST TAKI ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
.....
JUST WHAT DID HE MEAN BY "WHAT ARE YOU"?
THREE GUYS WITH MYSTERIOUS SECRETS? IT'S NATURAL
I SUGGEST WE AGREE NOT TO ASK EACH OTHER ANYTHING
THAT'S WHAT



I WANT TO KNOW MOST

YOU'RE CARRYING THE COUNTER WITH YOU, CORRECT?
WE GOT AS FAR SHINJUKU BEFORE LOSING SIGHT OF HIM. WHO KNOWS WHERE HE COULD BE BY NOW
IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEARCH HIM OUT WITHIN A RADIUS OF 50 KILOMETERS
IT WILL REACT TO THE NUCLEAR MATERIAL IN TAKI'S "HEART" MECHANISM
TAKI WILL SURVIVE NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO TO HIM
I DON'T CARE IF HE LOSES AN ARM AND A LEG IN THE PROCESS!
CAPTURE HIM AND BRING HIM BACK HERE AT ANY COSTS!
UNDERSTOOD? IF HE'S IN HIDING, THEN SMOKE HIM OUT OF THE BUILDING IF YOU HAVE TO!
BRING HIM BACK TO ME!
I'M NOT DONE PLAYING WITH HIM!

DON'T WORRY, TAKAKO
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, I CAN ALWAYS WHIP UP A NEW BATCH OF ARTIFICIAL SKIN AND RECOVER HIM
TAK!
BURY HIM IN FLAMES!
THAT'LL BE THE ONLY WAY YOJ WILL BE ABLE TO BRING HIM BACK
AND I'LL BE SURE TO GIVE HIM JUST AS PRETTY A FACE AS BEFORE! JUST LIKE YOJ
BUT IT WON'T KILL HIM
OF COURSE, IT MAY STING A BIT, WHAT WITH THE LACK OF ANAESTHESIA
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN FOND OF BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

IT REALLY IS PRETTY!
HUH?
WHAT IS?
YOUR FACE!
R-REALLY? I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS ANYTHING SPECIAL
NO WAY! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD BE A MODEL!
Y-YOU REALLY THINK SO?
I HAVE THIS FACE JUST BECAUSE THE PROFESSOR WISHED IT SO
YUP, YOUR PERSONALITY SHOWS THROUGH IT

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOJT? EVERYBODY HAS A PERSON-ALITY
I DION'T THINK MY FACE SHOWED IT
PERSON-ALITY?
I DION'T EVEN THINK I HAD A PERSON-ALITY
I JUST THOUGHT HOW NICE IT'D BE IF I HAD A FACE THAT WAS MINE. NOT FASHIONED FROM SOMEONE ELSE'S MOLD
I MEAN, I
I DON'T CARE HOW UGLY I AM
HUH? BUT THAT IS YOUR FACE, TAKI
AND I REALLY THINK YOUR TRUE CHARACTER SHINES THROJGH.

I SEE
OH! LORD MICHAEL'S MY ADOPTIVE FATHER, BY THE WAY
THAT'S WHAT LORD MICHAEL ALWAYS TOLD ME HE TOLD ME THAT MY CHARACTER WAS CLEAR ENOUGH, SO I SHOULD STOP BEING SO TIMID!
I'D APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULDN'T BORE OUR GUEST WITH STUPID STORIES
OOF!
HEY! THAT HURT!
ENOUGH FOOLISHNESS! GET TO BED ALREADY!
BUT WE ONLY HAVE TWO BEDS! WHAT'LL WE DO?
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SLEEP TOGET--
UH, EXCUSE ME, BUT

I WOULDN'T MIND SLEEPING WITH CHIHAYA.
FINE BY ME!
"HOMOSEXUALITY IS A CRIME"
GOOD NIGHT THEN
THAT SETTLES IT! I'M SPENDING THE NIGHT HERE WITH TAKI!

IT'S BEEN SAID SO OFTEN THAT IT'S BECOME SOMEWHAT RIDICJLOUS I WON'T BOTHER ANYMORE

WHAT I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT

SLAM

IS TAKI

HE'S LIKE A WOUNDED BEAST

RIGHT IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS

BETTER TO JUST LEAVE IT ALONE

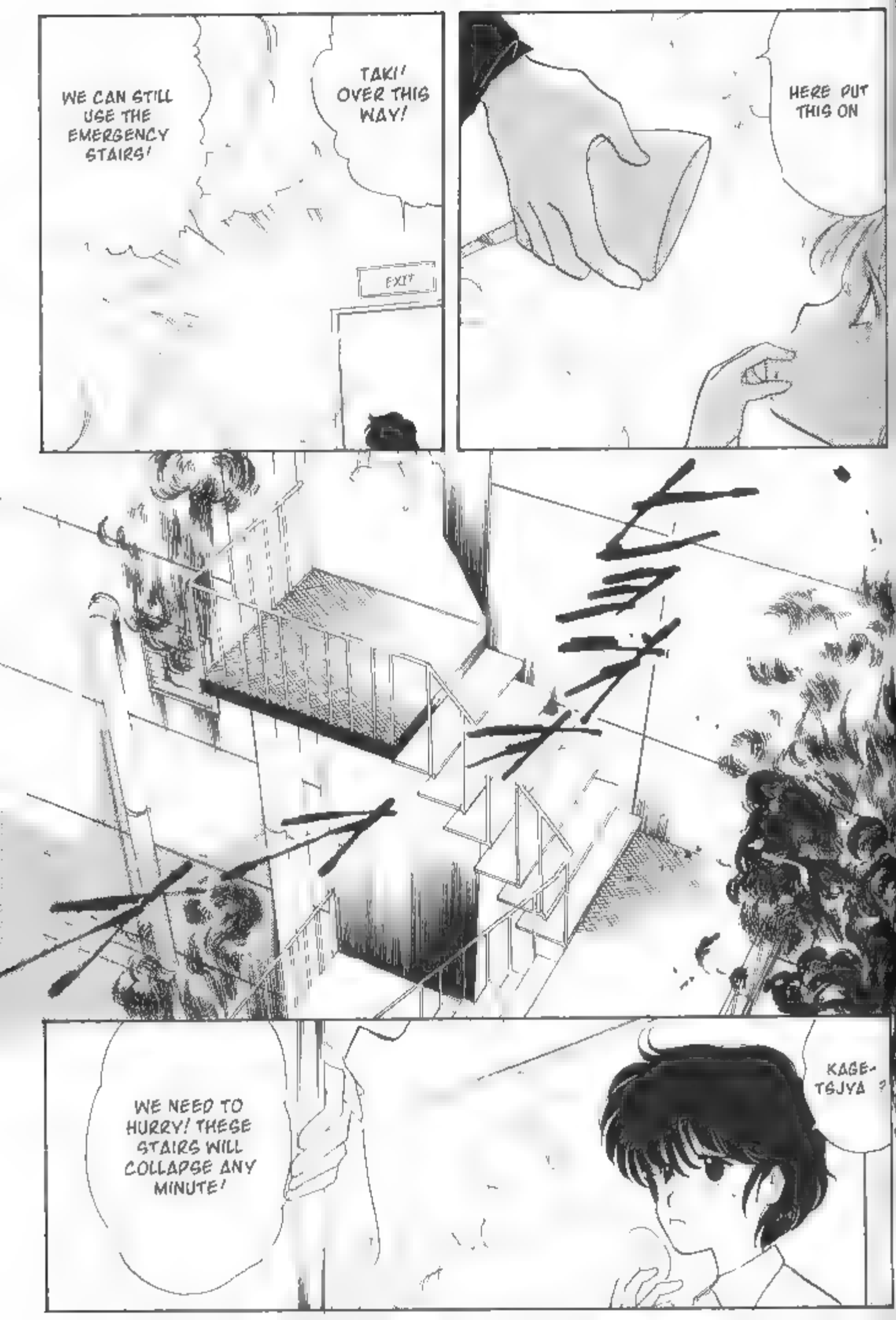
I JUST KNOW WHEN TO BE CAREFUL

BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE WHAT HAPPENS HERE IS OUT OF MY HANDS.

HMPH
LET THE WOUNDED LICK EACH OTHERS' WOUNDS!
RIGHT. NOT MY BUSINESS IN THE LEAST
WHAT THE--?!
FIRE!

EEEEEEK!
THE BUILDING'S ON FIRE!
CHIHAYA! TAKI! IT'S A FIRE!
KAGE-TSUYA!

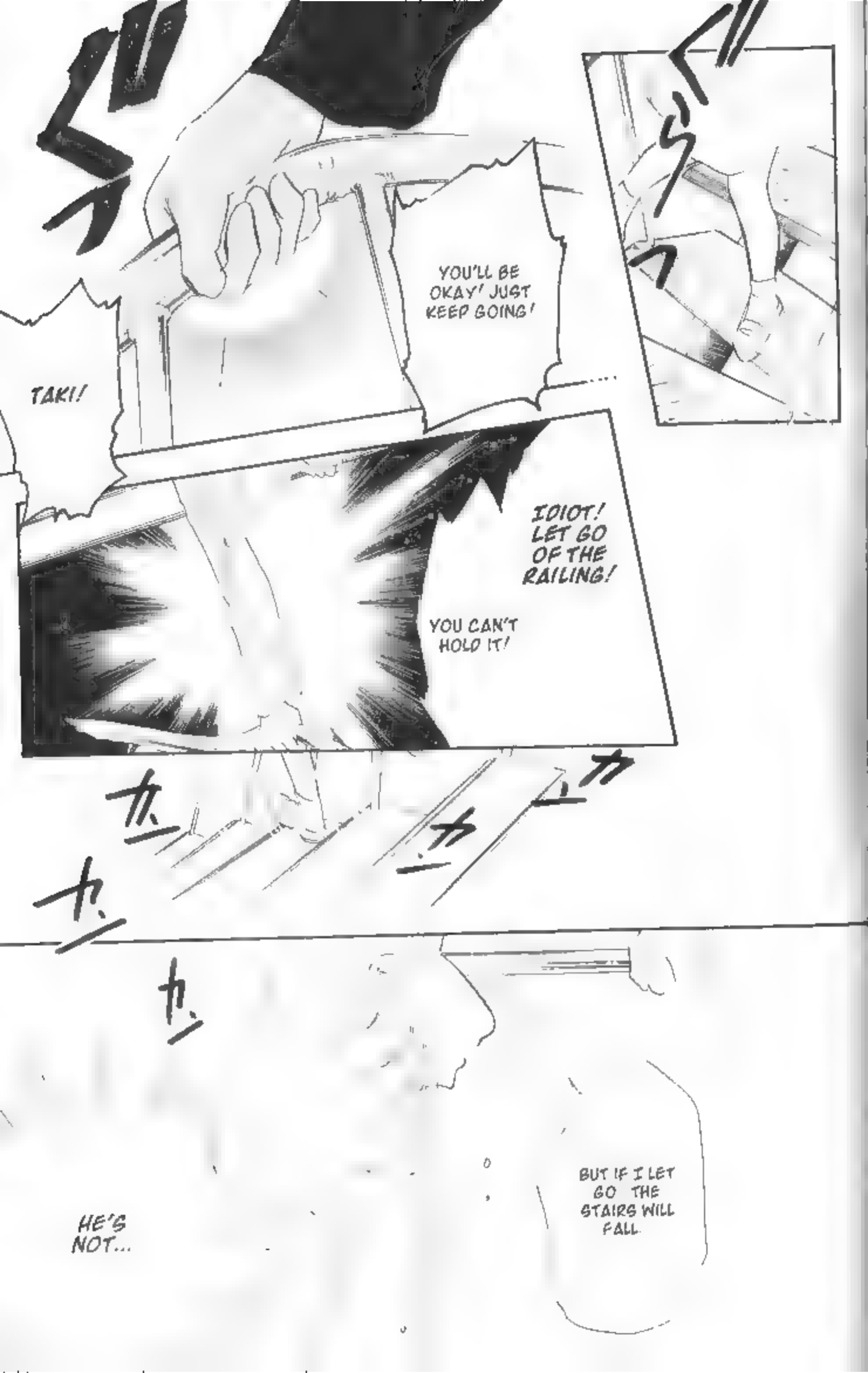
WAAAH!
WAAAH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SWEETIE?
B-BUT THE ROOF?
WE HAVE NO CHOICE WE'LL HAVE TO HEAD FOR THE ROOF
NO GOOD! THE ELEVATOR'S OUT OF SERVICE!
AND THE STAIRS ARE BLOCKED!
COOOO
HELP MIGHT ARRIVE WHILE WE STILL HAVE ENOUGH OXYGEN IN OUR FACEMASKS.
YOU'LL BE OKAY COME WITH ME.
I CAN'T FIND MY MOMMY!


WE CAN STILL USE THE EMERGENCY STAIRS!
TAKI! OVER THIS WAY!
EXIT
HERE PUT THIS ON
WE NEED TO HURRY! THESE STAIRS WILL COLLAPSE ANY MINUTE!
KAGE-TSUYA ?

AN EARTHIAN WOULD NEVER SURVIVE THE TRIP!
NO! THE ONLY PLACE WE CAN GO FROM HERE IS SPACE!
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY! WHY DON'T WE JUST INSTAN-TANEOUSLY TRANSPORT OURSELVES OUT OF HERE?
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M GOING TO LET THE GIRL GO DOWN FIRST
!
WE CAN GET OUT SAFELY ANYTIME, BUT
RIGHT!

MKAY!
I WANT YOU TO RUN DOWN AS FAST AS YOU CAN UNTIL YOU GET TO THE BOTTOM, OKAY?
AND DON'T STOP ON YOUR WAY DOWN
...WHAT ABOUT TAKI?!
YOU CAN MAKE IT DOWN BY YOURSELF, RIGHT?
I HOPE IT HOLDS HER

LET IT HOLD HER WEIGHT!
SHE'S HALFWAY DOWN SO FAR
WILL SHE BE ALL RIGHT?
CREAK
PLEASE
YEEK!
KA-KLANG


TAKI!
YOU'LL BE OKAY! JUST KEEP GOING!
IDIOT! LET GO OF THE RAILING!
YOU CAN'T HOLD IT!
BUT IF I LET GO THE STAIRS WILL FALL
HE'S NOT...

A HUMAN ARM COULD NEVER HOLD UP SEVEN FLIGHTS OF EMERGENCY STAIRS!
HE'S NOT HUMAN!!
TAKI!

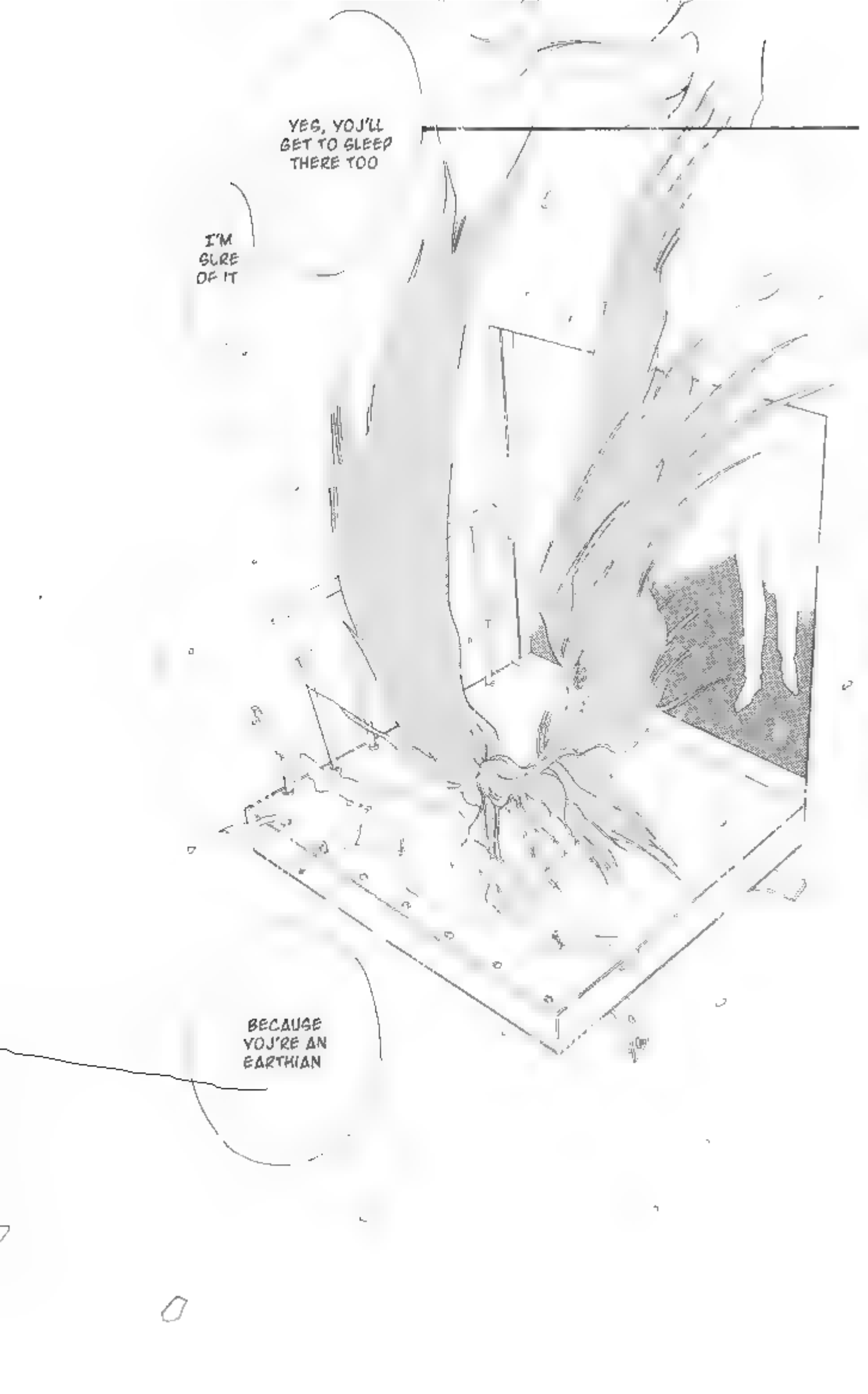
KAGE-
TSUYA!
LET GO OF
IT, TAKI!
PLEASE!
HELP HIM,
KAGETSUYA!
TAKI
WHAT
CALM DOWN,
CHIHAYA

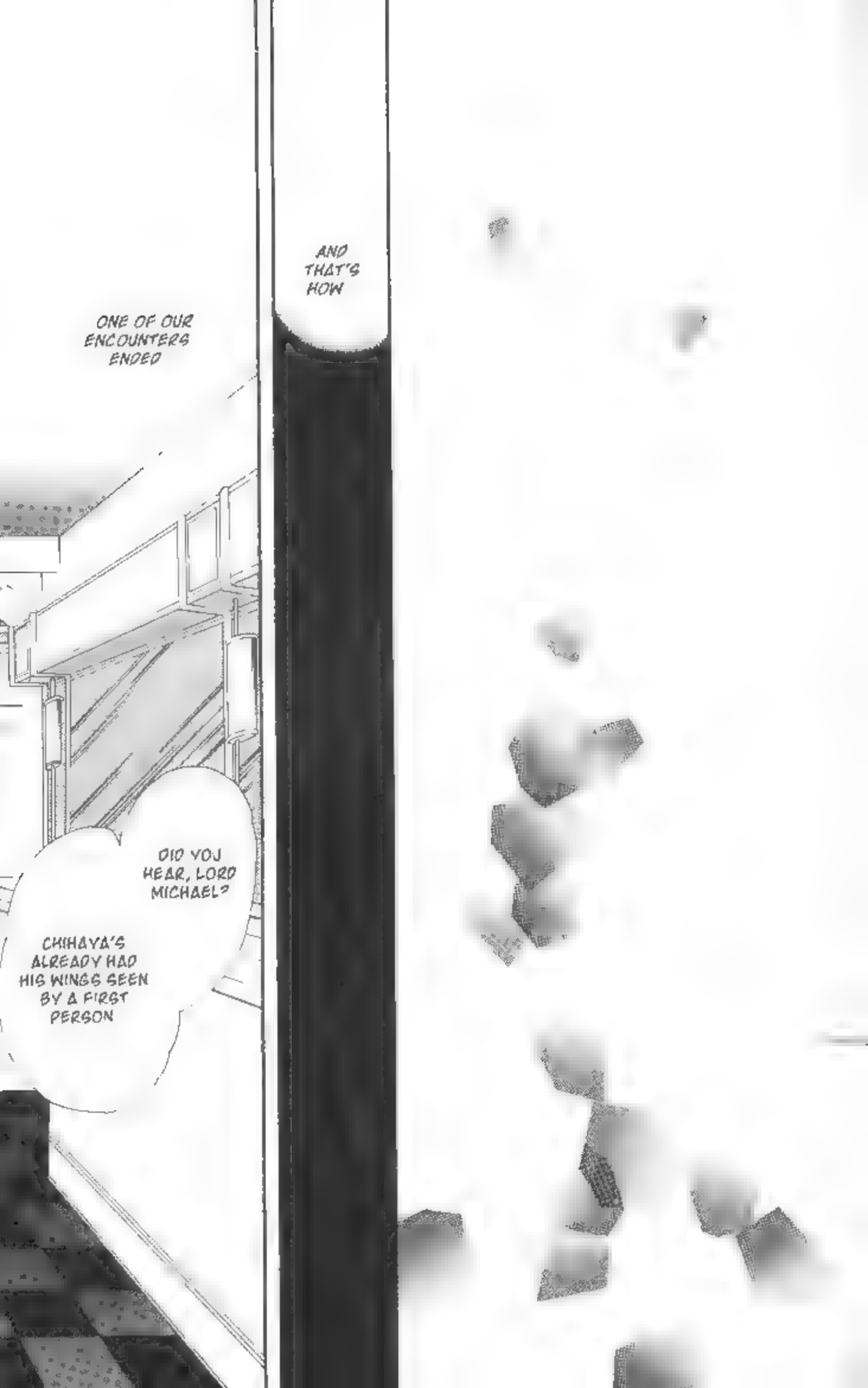
I'M SORRY, I.
HILL
LET GO NOW, TAKI!
NO! THE STAIRS--
OH NO!
YOUR ARM! YOUR ARM'S GOING TO GET TORN OFF!
URK
TAKI?!
Ruri
Ruri

!?
IT'S ALL RIGHT! SHE MADE IT TO THE BOTTOM!
.....
ERGH !

I GUESS THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO HIDE IT NOW
IT'S TRUE I'M NOT HUMAN

OH GOD, IT HURT
BUT I JUST WANTED TO KNOW ONE THING
TAKI
I WANTED TO KNOW
IF I BROKE MOULD I DIE?
WOULD I GET TO SLEEP WHERE EVERYONE ELSE SLEEPS WHEN THEY'VE DIED?


YES, YOU'LL GET TO SLEEP THERE TOO
I'M SURE OF IT
BECAUSE YOU'RE AN EARTHIAN


AND THAT'S HOW
ONE OF OUR ENCOUNTERS ENDED
DID YOU HEAR, LORD MICHAEL?
CHIHAYA'S ALREADY HAD HIS WINGS SEEN BY A FIRST PERSON

YES
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! WHAT ABOUT KAGETSUYA?
WHAT?
ZOK
WHEN HE WAS CAUGHT IN A BURNING BUILDING
HE RESCUED THE EARTHIAN BY UNVEILING HIS WINGS
YOU DON'T SAY
WHAT UTTER NON-SENSE!
ガビーン...
HE CLAIMS HE WASN'T ABLE TO STOP THEM
AND THAT WAS
I THINK IT'D BE BEST TO ASK CHIHAYA FOR THE WHOLE STORY NEXT TIME HE COMES UP FOR VACATION
THE BEGINNING
OF OUR TALE

AFTER ALL, HE *IS* EDEN'S NUMBER ONE OPERA SINGER.

SO I'VE HEARD. THE MILITARY'S ALWAYS BEEN WEAK WHEN IT COMES TO CULTURED MEN, SO WE LET HIS SELFISHNESS SLIDE ONCE IN A WHILE.

WORD HAS IT URIEL HAS DESCENDED TO THE PLANET EARTH. ***WITHOUT*** VALHALLA'S PERMISSION, I MIGHT ADD.

DIDN'T YOU GO AND LISTEN TO HIM AT THE LAST SAKURA FAMILY INVITE?

YOU LIE!

THE "MIRACLE VOICE" THEY CALL HIM. I HAD NO IDEA.

SEEMS THE ARTIST IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF YOURS, HM?

WH-WHAT ABSURD ACCUSATIONS! YOU SHOULD START FOLLOWING MILITARY REGULATIONS IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

AH, I REMEMBER NOW. YOU DON'T LIKE HIM BECAUSE HE'S TAKEN SUCH AN INTEREST IN CHIHAYA, CORRECT?

THE FACT THAT HE'S YOUR ***FRIEND*** IS WHAT SURPRISES ME!

You idiot!!

Dear Lord Michael...

As an update for my report, both Chihaya and I...

are currently residing in London.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

THE ELDERLY OF THIS CITY HAVE A SAYING. "A DREAMLESS SLEEP IS ONE OF ULTIMATE PEACE
A DREAMLESS LIFE IS ONE OF ULTIMATE HAPPINESS."
BUT I FIND THIS TO BE A PARADOX
IF DREAMS REALLY ARE SUCH POISON TO THE EARTHIAN BODY
THEN WHY DO THEY KEEP FALLING SO HOPELESSLY IN LOVE
. WITH THE FOOLISH DREAMERS?

HERE YOU ARE
SORRY, THIS IS ALL WE HAVE FOR NOW
TEA? WHAT A BORE WHERE'S THE HARD LIQUOR?
BORING? YOU DARE CALL THE GENUINE FEM ROYAL BLEND TEA, THAT THE QUEEN HERSELF DRINKS, BORING?!
I DON'T PERMIT UNDERAGE DRINKING IN THE HOUSE SORRY
Do you have any idea how much trouble I went through to buy that?
OH? YOU'RE NINETEEN AND STILL DON'T DRINK, KAGETSUYA?

I DON'T CARE IF HE'S RAPHAEL'S BEST FRIEND.
..OR THE "MIRACLE VOICE" OR WHATEVER!
WHAT WITH ALL THE FORTNUM & MASON IN YOUR KITCHEN, YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER THE TASTE OF GOOD GIN
BY THE WAY
WHEN IS CHIHAYA COMING HOME TONIGHT?
ALL I CAN SEE IS ONE RUDE PRICK!
AND IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, DARJEELING EXTRA BEATS ROYAL BLEND ANY DAY OF THE WEEK!
I REALLY CAN'T STAND THIS GUY!
Isn't he cute?
HOTEL? I DIDN'T BOOK A HOTEL, SILLY I'LL BE CRASHING HERE WITH YOU GUYS OF COURSE
YES, THAT REMINDS ME, LORD URIEL! AT WHICH HOTEL WILL YOU BE SPENDING THE NIGHT?
BAH!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
B-BUT, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR INVESTIGATIONS! WE HAVE NO TIME TO BE ENTERTAINING GUESTS--
THE NERVE OF HIM! INVITING HIMSELF OVER LIKE--

AH-HA! CONSIDERING CHIHAYA'S UNDYING LOVE FOR THIS PLACE, I TAKE IT HE'S COUNTING EVERY MUNDANITY AS A PLUS
AND THEN THERE'S MY PARTNER...
WELL, ABOUT THAT THE EARTHIAN ARE ACTUALLY STUBBORNLY HANGING IN THERE
OH, RIGHT! THE CHECKING BUSINESS AND WHATNOT! YOU'RE ON THE MINUS SIDE, AM I RIGHT?
SO, HOW'S IT COMING ALONG? YOU THINK YOU CAN FIND 10,000 MINUSES EASILY ENOUGH?
OH, I WOULD NEVER PUT A GUEST THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE! I'D GLADLY LEND YOU MY BED FOR THE NIGHT
I'll take the floor
YOU DO ONLY HAVE TWO BEDS, CORRECT?
NOW, ABOUT TONIGHT I FIGURED I'D SLEEP WITH CHIHAYA, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
COME ON, HENRY! WHY DON'T YOU COME BY FOR DINNER AT MY PLACE?
NO, NO. IT'S MY PLEASURE, I ASSURE YOU!
PLEASE, KAGETSUYA, NO NEED TO TROUBLE YOURSELF FOR ME.

IT'S STILL EARLY! WHY DON'T YOU JUST KILL TIME AT MY PLACE UNTIL THEN?
AND THEN AT TEN, I'LL COME WITH YOU TO THE THEATRE!
CHIHAYA, I'D LOVE TO, BUT I HAVE TO RUN DOWN TO COVENT GARDEN TO PICK JO MARY AT TEN
MY FLATMATE, KAGETSUYA, IS A GREAT COOK! YOU'LL LOVE IT!
AND I'M SURE HE'S DYING TO HEAR ALL ABOUT THE OPERA! WE'RE GOING TO GO SEE IT TOMORROW, YOU KNOW!
HMM
REALLY? WOW! THAT'D BE GREAT!
AS MARY'S MANAGER, IT'S MY JOB TO MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T FORGET THINGS, AS SHE'S PRONE TO DO
JUST THE OTHER DAY, SHE FORGOT HER COPY OF THE SCORE IN THE DRESSING ROOM!

KAGE-TSUYA, I'M HOME--
CHIHAYA! WELCOME BACK!
L-L-L-LORD URIEL?!
IT'S BEEN AGES! HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
LORD URIEL!
AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LITTLE HUG DURING A TOUCHING REUNION?
HM? AND WHO'S THIS KID?
HEY! DON'T CUT IN!
LORD URIEL! OKAY, SO CHIHAYA'S HOME WOOPITY-OOO NOW LET'S HAVE DINNER LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE!

IT'S... IT'S NICE MEETING YOU ALL
HE'S THE MANAGER OF THE PRIMA DONNA, MARY BARRINGTON!
AND BEFORE LONG, A COMPOSER FOR THE ROYAL MUSIC HALL, COVENT GARDEN!
OOPS!
THIS IS MY FRIEND, HENRY EDWARD STANCE
SCRATCH SCRATCH
SAME HERE
PEE!
HIC
LORD URIEL! YOU'RE BEING RUDE!
WH-WH-WHAT'D I DO WRONG?
Hee-
Hee
Hee
Hee

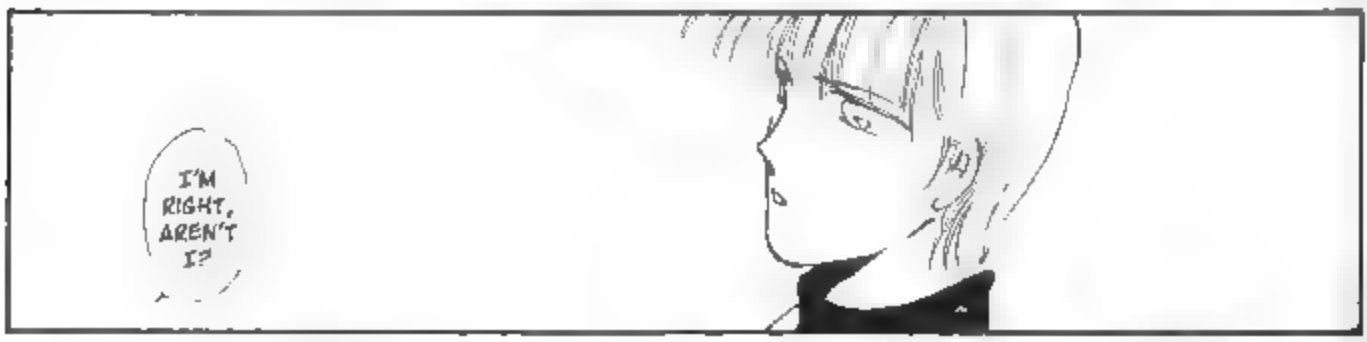
DON'T MIND HIM COME ON, LET'S EAT BEFORE IT GETS COLD
Feels a bit bad
ER..
LORD URIEL! WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP LAUGHING!
SORRY! CAN'T HELP IT! IT'S JUST--
WHEN IN ROME, DO AS THE ROMANS! SO, WHEN IN ENGLAND, MAKE ENGLISH CUISINE!
AND IT'D BE A LIE TO SAY COOKING WASN'T MY SPECIALTY!
がちゃ
がちゃ
WOW! IT LOOKS LIKE GENUINE ENGLISH COOKING!
YOU LIKE IT? THIS IS STEAK AND KIDNEY STEW, AND PACKED KIDNEY PIE!
YEAH! THE BEST!
IT'S DELICIOUS! ♡

S-SORRY!
Horseradish goes with the beef
MINT GOES WITH THE LAMB, APPLE WITH THE PORK!
CHIHAYA! YOU'RE MIXING UP THE SAUCES!
SO, TOMORROW WE'RE GOING TO SEE AN OPERA AT COVENT GARDEN
がちゃ
がちゃ
THAT SO?
COVENT GARDEN?
HOW'S IT TASTE, CHIHAYA?
THIS IS ONE OF MY MASTER-PIECES!
IT'S DELICIOUS!
WHAT PERFOR-MANCE ARE THEY HOLDING NOW?
ALSO KNOWN AS THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, AM I CORRECT?

THAT'S REALLY SOME-THING!
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
HMM..
YEAH, YEAH! THAT ONE! WHAT'S THE STORY ABOJT?
The story takes place in Paris in the 19th Century
Deep beneath the opera house lurks the Phantom, ruler of darkness
Believing his beloved Christine should be the prima donna
he makes mysterious, often dangerous things happen throughout the opera house

YOUR CLIENT, MARY, ALSO MAKES AN APPEARANCE, RIGHT?
UR, Y-YES!
WHAT'S HER ROLE?
Murder, threatening letters, an underground lake and a giant falling chandelier.
It's a tale of passion, bizarre romance and madness, written by Gaston Leroux
IN THE CHORUS DURING THE MASQUERADE BALL SCENE
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, LORD URIEL?!
IDIOT
HA HA HA HA

UH, CHIHAYA, THAT'S NOT WHAT THE STORY'S ABOUT
IT'S ABOUT--
HE'D HAVE TO BE A PRETTY WEIRD GUY TO LIVE UNDER THE OPERA HOUSE
BUT
Nyah
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE IT!
Hey, that's not very nice
I'M QUITE SORRY! THAT'S A W-WONDERFUL ROLE INDEED!
I MIGHT JUST GO WATCH IT MYSELF! SOUNDS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE A BLAST!
RIGHT THE PHANTOM ISN'T JUST A MAN WITH UNREQUITED LOVE.


I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?

HE GRABS OUR ATTENTION AND NEVER LETS US GO
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA LOVES MUSIC, AND LIVES IN THE DARKNESS WITHIN EVERYONE'S HEARTS.

IT IS HARD TO FORGET.
A MEETING WITH HIM
HE ENCHANTS US
PULLS US IN, AND SPELLBINDS US.
THAT'S WHY I TOOK TO THE STAGE
I JUST LOVE GETTING CAUGHT UP IN THE EXCITEMENT
THE RHYTHM THAT SWIRLS LIKE A STORM
THE UNENDING ECHO OF APPLAUSE
OR PERHAPS, YOU'RE FEELING ILL?
BUT THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN EATING SO LITTLE, HENRY, I ALMOST WONDER IF MY COOKING WASN'T THAT GOOD.
TIME FOR DESSERT!
カタ
HUH? YOU MEAN YOU'RE A--

HMM, IS THAT SO?
S-SORRY! I JUST DIDN'T COME WITH AN APPETITE!
N-NO! NOTHING LIKE THAT! IT WAS DELICIOUS!
WHAT?!
BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT LORD URIEL IS AN OPERA SINGER
WHAT SONG?
HUH? B-BUT--
OH OH! I GOT AN IDEA! HOW 'BOUT WE HAVE HIM SING YOUR SONG!

BUT THE PRODUCER SAID HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO USE IT IN THE PERFOR-MANCE ANYWAY.
GREAT!
I CAN SING ANY SONG, FOR YOUR INFORMATION
YES, I CAN SING IT
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? CAN YOU SING IT?
B-B-BUT I THINK IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SONG!
DOESN'T MATTER HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS. THERE'S NO USE FOR AN UNSINGABLE SONG IN THE OPERA!
YOU WROTE THIS THING? IT'S A PIECE OF CRAP
NO NORMAL SINGER CAN SING IT THE RANGE IS WAY TOO WIDE
START AT LOW C AND THEN UP FOUR OCTAVES? IT'S CRAZY!

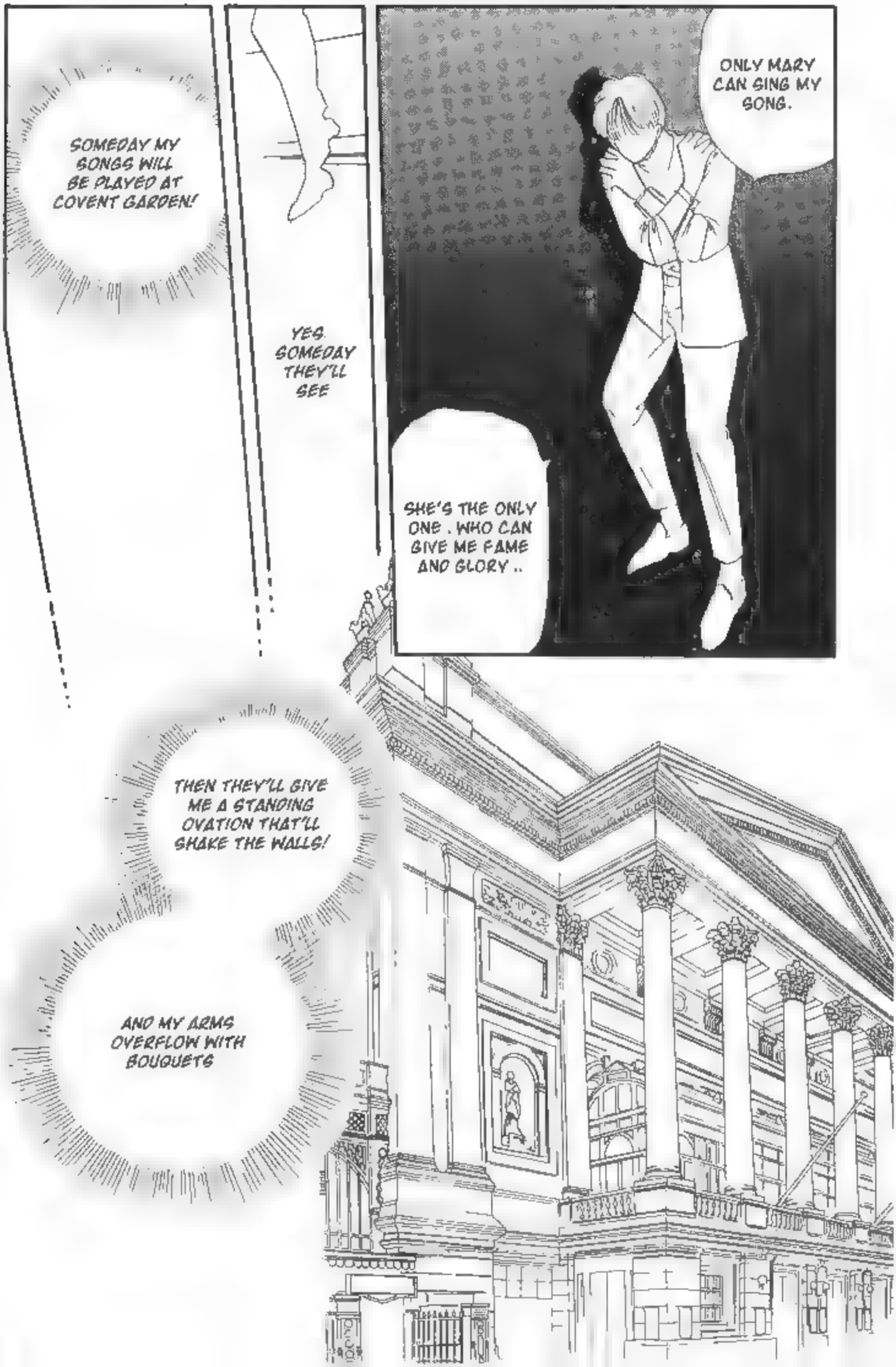
YEAH, RIGHT LIKE IN THE CHORUS LINE FOR PHANTOM OF THE OPERA?
SHE HAS AN AMAZING VOICE! I'M SURE IF SHE HAD THE CHANCE--
BUT MARY CAN SING IT!
LORD URIEL!
HEY, KID! DON'T FORGET THIS! IT'S GOOD
S-SORRY, HENRY
I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, CHIHAYA YOU HAVE ANOTHER GUEST TO TAKE CARE OF, RIGHT?
BUT, HENRY--
REALLY, I'LL BE FINE!
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE LAST REHEARSAL I SHOULD GET GOING NOW THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR DINNER.
WAIT FOR ME, HENRY! I'M COMING TOO!

SPLIT IT WITH MARY, ALL RIGHT?
KAGE-TSUYA
CHI-KAYA!
DOWN TO BUSINESS! I'VE GOT A BONE OR TWO TO PICK WITH LORD URIEL!
WHAT?
I THINK YOU SHOULD STOP HANGING AROUND HENRY
HE GIVES ME A BAD FEELING

WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO HEAR IT! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, KAGETSUYA?!
I'M SAYING THE KID'S BAD NEWS!
DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!
WHAT?!
I DON'T NEED A REASON! IF HE GIVES ME A BAD FEELING THEN HE GIVES ME A BAD FEELING! END OF DISCUSSION!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
AND YOUR REASON FOR THAT..?!
CHI-HAYA!
HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH CRUEL THINGS?! AND LORD URIEL, TOO! I..I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
I WON'T HEAR IT!

MY OH MY WHAT A MESS
ANOTHER FIGHT?
SLAM
IF YOU HADN'T TOLD HIM, THEN I WAS GOING TO
YOU NOTICED TOO, OF COURSE
LOOKS LIKE IT'S A LUNG DISEASE I'D GIVE HIM ABOUT ANOTHER MONTH BEFORE HE KEELS OVER
He's pretty dense, sometimes
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T SMELL THE STENCH OF DEATH ON HIM

CHIMAYA, THAT IDIOT!
HE LETS HIMSELF GET SO ATTACHED TO THESE EARTHIAN
BUT WHENEVER ANYTHING BAD HAPPENS, HE'S THE ONE WHO SUFFERS!
AW, WHAT A SWEETHEART YOU ARE, KAGETSUYA! JUST A BIG SOFTIE!
OH, THEN I SHOULD MENTION WHAT A NICE GUY YOU ARE, LORD URIEL!
DAMNIT
YOU MADE SURE TO MAKE HENRY HATE US SO THAT HE'D STAY AWAY FOR GOOD!
GOTTA .. HURRY
MUST PICK UP MARY AND BRING HER HOME
TOMORROW'S THE BIG PERFOR-MANCE--
KOFF
KFF
AGCK!

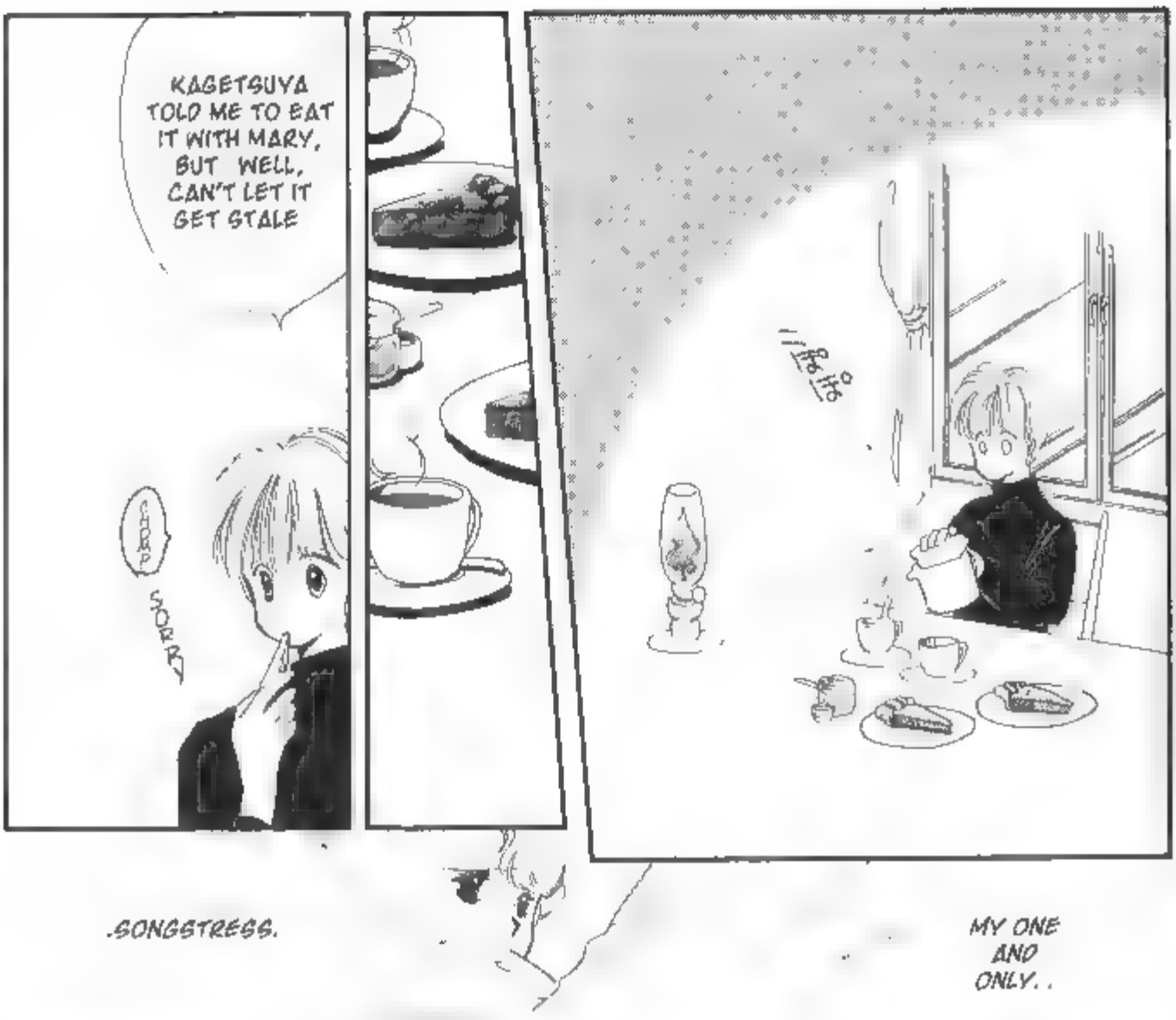

SOMEDAY MY SONGS WILL BE PLAYED AT COVENT GARDEN!
YES. SOMEDAY THEY'LL SEE
ONLY MARY CAN SING MY SONG.
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE . WHO CAN GIVE ME FAME AND GLORY ..
THEN THEY'LL GIVE ME A STANDING OVATION THAT'LL SHAKE THE WALLS!
AND MY ARMS OVERFLOW WITH BOUQUETS

YES. IF IT'S ALL RIGHT, I WAS HOPING WE COULD HAVE DINNER AND MAYBE A DRINK TOGETHER
ME?!
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T KEEP YOU OUT LATE I KNOW WE BOTH HAVE A BIG DAY TOMORROW
BEING ASKED OUT BY THE TOP TENOR?! GO OUT AND GET 'EM, GIRL!
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE, MARY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! HENRY'LL BE THRILLED!
YEAH, BUT . HENRY'S SUPPOSED TO COME AND PICK ME UP SOON.

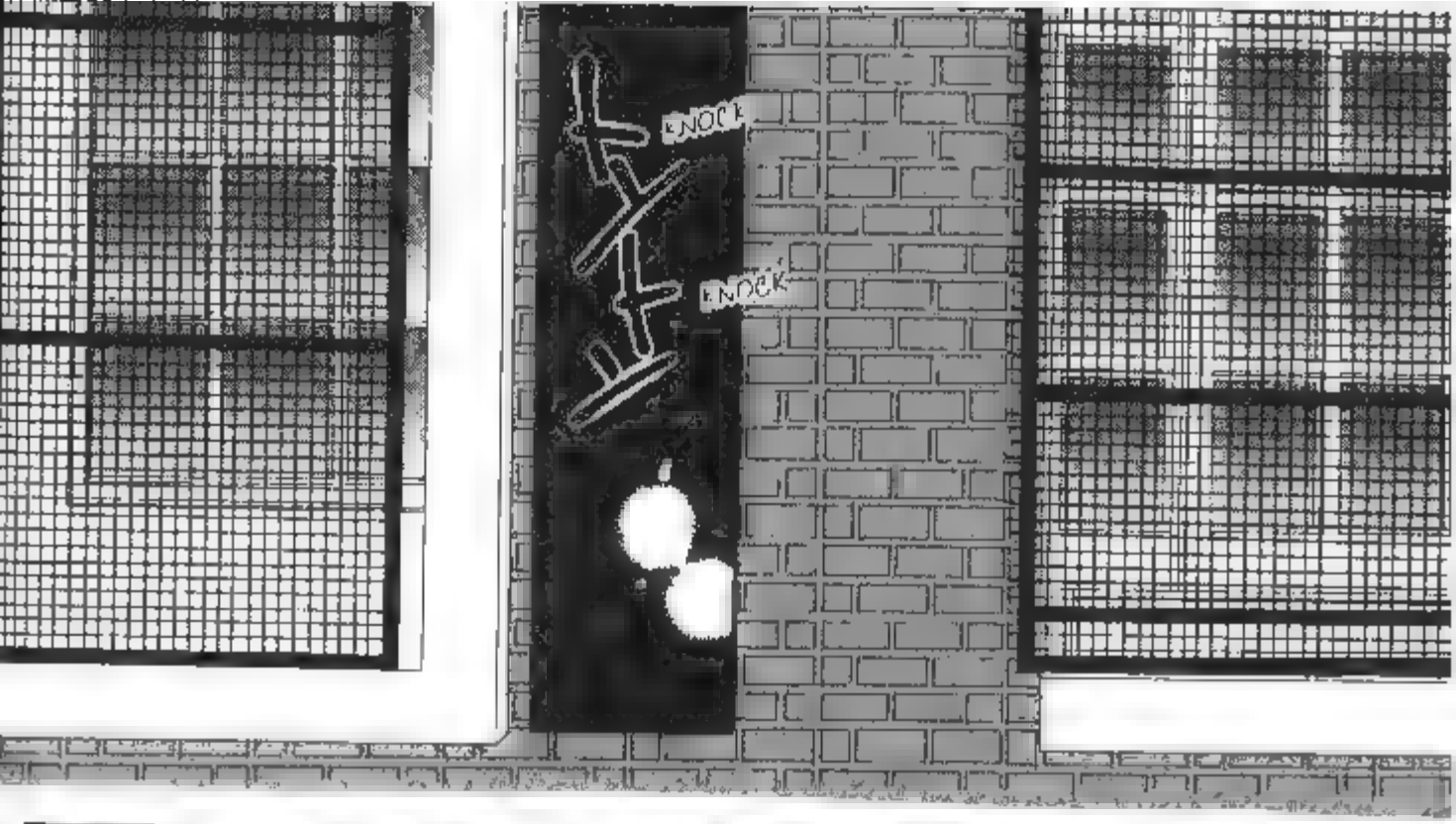
WELL, MARY? IS IT A YES OR A NO?
MARY!
O-OKAY BUT
HE'S MORE THAN JUST MY--
M-MAYBE, BUT
.. SOME-HOW I DOUBT THAT
WHY NOT? IT'S AN HONOR TO BE INVITED INTO THAT GROUP!
WHAT MANAGER WOULDN'T BE HAPPY?
UH, I
I WAS INVITED BY THOMAS MORTON FOR SOME DINNER.
HENRY!
WELL, THAT'S WONDER-FUL!
THIS MIGHT BE YOJR BIG CHANCE! GO AHEAD!
SORRY I'M LATE!

I .
HURRY UP, MARY! DON'T MAKE HIM WAIT ALL NIGHT!
OH! HEY THERE, THOMAS!
HENRY
OF COURSE! IT'S ONLY DINNER!
HENRY, ARE YOU SURE?
JUST MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T TRY ANY-THING FUNNY, NOW!
NOW HAVE A GREAT TIME, YOU TWO! TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER, THOMAS!
GOOD NIGHT, MARY!
WE WON'T BE LATE, THOUGH I'LL BE SURE TO DRIVE HER BACK HOME.
DON'T MIND IF I DO! JUST LET ME BORROW HER FOR THE NIGHT

MY PRIMA DONNA
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT A WASTE!
AFTER ALL, SHE'S MY PRIMA DONNA!
OH? YOU'RE WRONG I LOVE MARY MORE THAN ANYONE IN THE WHOLE WORLD
YOU'RE NOT TAKING HER FOR GRANTED ARE YOU?
HAH! IF YOU BOTHERED TO ASK HER, YOU'D KNOW SHE'D RATHER BE WITH YOU.


KAGETSUYA TOLD ME TO EAT IT WITH MARY, BUT WELL, CAN'T LET IT GET STALE
CHOMP
CHOMP
.SONGSTRESS.
MY ONE AND ONLY. .

IT'S DELI-CIOUS
YEAH THAT'S ALL
I LOVE HER AS A SINGER


KNOCK
KNOCK

CHIHAYA? YOU STILL UPSET ABOUT TODAY?

N-NOT KAGETSUYA! HE WOULDN'T CARE!
OH, I THINK YOU'RE QUITE MIS-TAKEN ABOUT THAT

GOOD! THAT'S A RELIEF!
IT MAKES KAGE-TSUYA AND ME SO SAD WHEN YOU'RE UPSET

NO, I'M NOT A-ANGRY ANYMORE

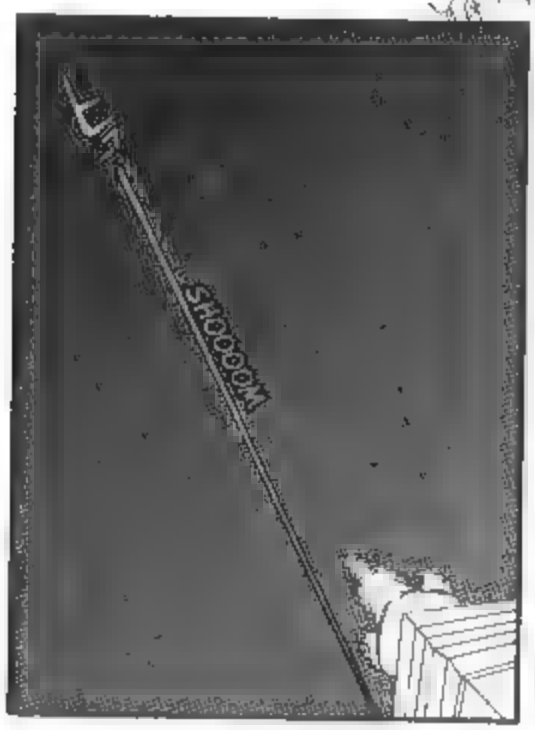
YOU REALLY ARE SLOW. KAGETSUYA REFERS TO YOU AND HIM AS,
...FAMILY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? KAGETSUYA HATES MY GUTS!
YOU TWO ARE CLOSE, EVEN IF YOU DO BUMP HEADS ONCE IN A WHILE I'M ALMOST ENVIOUS.
SO WHAT?
BUT I CALL US "FAMILY," TOO
?
H-HEY! DON'T HIDE IT!
YOU'RE JUST LIKE KAGETSUYA! ALWAYS KEEPING ALL THE ANSWERS TO YOURSELF!
Ooh How embarrassing!
N-NOTHING AT ALL!
THERE I GO AGAIN, SAYING STUPID THINGS.

NO!
KAGETSUYA ALREADY TOLD ME HE'D BE USING THE SOFA TONIGHT!
OH! BY THE WAY, DID YOU WANT TO SHARE THE BED? WE ONLY HAVE TWO IN THE HOUSE, AFTER ALL.
YOU TWO HAVE MUCH MORE IN COMMON THAN HE AND I DO
THAT BRAT AND ME?!
YOU DARE COMPARE US?!
LEAVE US, WICKED DEMON!
RAOUL, STOP!
I BEG YOU!
I SHALL NEVER HAND CHRISTINE OVER TO A MURDEROUS CREATURE LIKE YOU!

HOW CAN YOU HEAR HER VOICE WHEN SHE'S JUST PART OF THAT CHORUS?
I CAN EASILY DISTINGUISH INDIVIDUAL VOICES FROM GROUPS
I SEE! HER VOICE IS SOME-THING ELSE!
MAYBE SHE CAN SING THAT SONG
BUT
OH!
THERE'S MARY! THE DANCING GIRL IN THE DRESS!
THAT'S HENRY'S MARY!
LOOKS LIKE TODAY'S MAIN STAR IS HAVING SOME TROUBLE
HER THROAT IS SHOT ANY MORE SINGING AND SHE'LL LOSE HER VOICE
WHAT?!

ANY UNDER-STUDIES READY TO--
WITH THAT THROAT? IT'S OVER. TAKE THE REST OF THE SEASON OFF
YOU'RE TAKING ME OUT OF THE REST OF THE PERFOR-MANCES?!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO ME!
COUGH
HENRY! DON'T!
PLEASE, DIRECTOR! LET MARY DO IT!
SHE CAN DO IT! I KNOW SHE CAN! JUST LISTEN TO HER!
HENRY, PLEASE! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
THOMAS?! YOU'RE RECOM-MENDING HER TOO?
YES, DIRECTOR! I THINK YOU SHOULD GIVE HER A CHANCE!
HMM...

HE'S LATE
HANTOM of the OPER


SHOOOOM

THEN PERHAPS HE HAD SOME OTHER BUSI-NESS TO ATTEND TO?

HE FOR-GOT, AND YOU KNOW IT.
NO! HENRY'S NOT THE TYPE TO FORGET OR BREAK HIS PROMISES!

pip
pip
pip
pip
REALLY?! HE'S REALLY LETTING YOU DO IT?!
YES! TOMORROW'S PERFORMANCE WILL BE MY DEBUT!
HENRY! I MADE IT!
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU!
I'LL DO MY BEST IN TOMORROW'S PERFOR-MANCE FOR YOU YOU SEE, I LOVE
OH THANK YOU, HENRY! I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!
MARY, YOU DID IT! NOW YOU'LL BE THE MOST FAMOUS SINGER UNDER HEAVEN!

UH, W-WAIT A MINUTE, HENRY--
WOULD YOU LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY FIRST?
I KNEW YOJ'D MAKE IT! EVEN FROM THE VERY START, I KNEW YOU WERE THE REAL THING!
SOON ENOJGH, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SING MY SONG!
WHY, OF COURSE! YOJR SINGING'S PHENOM-ENAL!
HENRY, PLEASE!
HENRY, WAIT!
NO, NO, NO NO TIME FOR CHITCHAT! GOT A BIG DAY AHEAD OF JS, SO YOU BETTER GO HOME AND GET YOUR REST
YOU
IS MY SINGING THE ONLY THING YOL CARE ABOUT?
WON'T DO US ANY GOOD IF YOU MESS UP ON YOUR FIRST BIG DAY!

GOOD NIGHT, MY DEAR MARY AND SWEET DREAMS
YOU JERK!
THOMAS? WHAT IS IT?
HENRY!
I WANT YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM MARY FROM NOW ON
Fun is Chihaya!

IT'S NOT JUST HER SINGING I LOVE EVERY-THING ABOUT MARY!
UNLIKE YOU!
I'M REALLY STARTING TO GET WORRIED I THINK WE BETTER GO LOOK FOR HIM
BUT WE CAN'T! THE DOORS ARE ALREADY LOCKED!
NO IT COULDN'T BE
LET'S GO I'LL HANDLE THE DOORS
THE STENCH OF DEATH IS STRONG TONIGHT!
IS THAT TRUE?
"CLICK"
OKAY! WE'RE IN!
HENRY! WHERE ARE YOU?

WHERE ON EARTH COULD HE BE?! HENRY!
I'M SURE
SHE'LL BE HAPPIER WITH YOU
HEH HEH
YEAH GOOD NIGHT
KOFF
HACK
HGCK!

IT SMELLS LIKE DEATH IS CLOSE!
HENRY!
HE'S GOTTA BE HERE SOME-WHE--
I SEE HIM!
WE DIDN'T GET HERE IN TIME
HE REEKS OF DEATH.
DON'T TOUCH HIM, CHI-HAYA!
HENRY! HENRY!
HANG IN THERE!

BUT AS A FELLOW TRAVELER ON THE PATH OF THE ARTS

I WILL GIVE HIM HIS ONE FINAL OVATION.

I HONESTLY DESPISE THE EARTHIAN, BUT

DON'T MOVE H.M! MAYBE WE CAN--

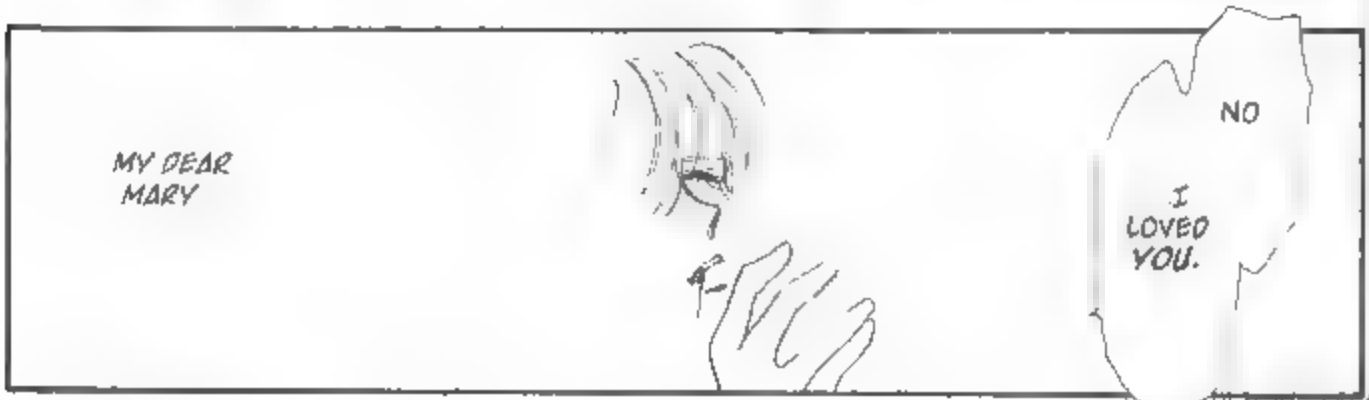
WE'RE TOO LATE!

WH-WHAT DO WE DO, KAGE-TSUYA?

HENRY!

LORD URIEL!
IT'S IT'S MY SONG!
IT MUST BE MARY!
MY SONG!
MARY IS FINALLY SINGING MY SONG!

DOES IT HURT?
DON'T LEAVE US, HENRY! YOU'LL BE OKAY!
THAT'S NOT WHY I LOVED HER. I
IT WASN'T JUST BECAUSE SHE'D SING MY SONG
HENRY!


MY DEAR MARY
NO
I LOVED YOU.

MARY
I WANTED TO GIVE YOU APPLAUDING AUDIENCES, AND COUNTLESS BOUQUETS, AND AND.

HENRY

HENRY!

HENRY!

HENRY!

CHIHAYA, IT'S TOO LATE

ANSWER ME, HENRY!

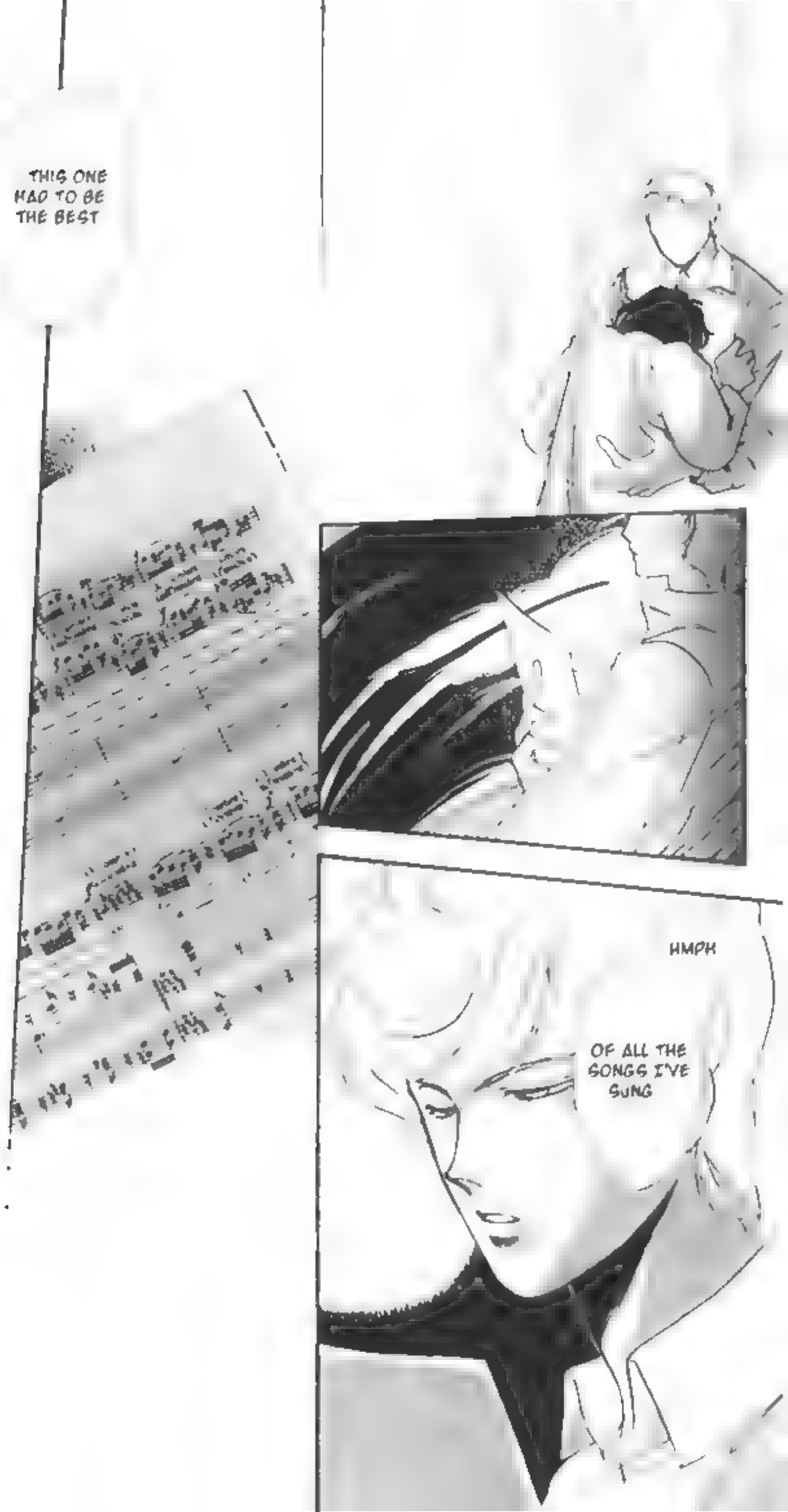
HENRY!

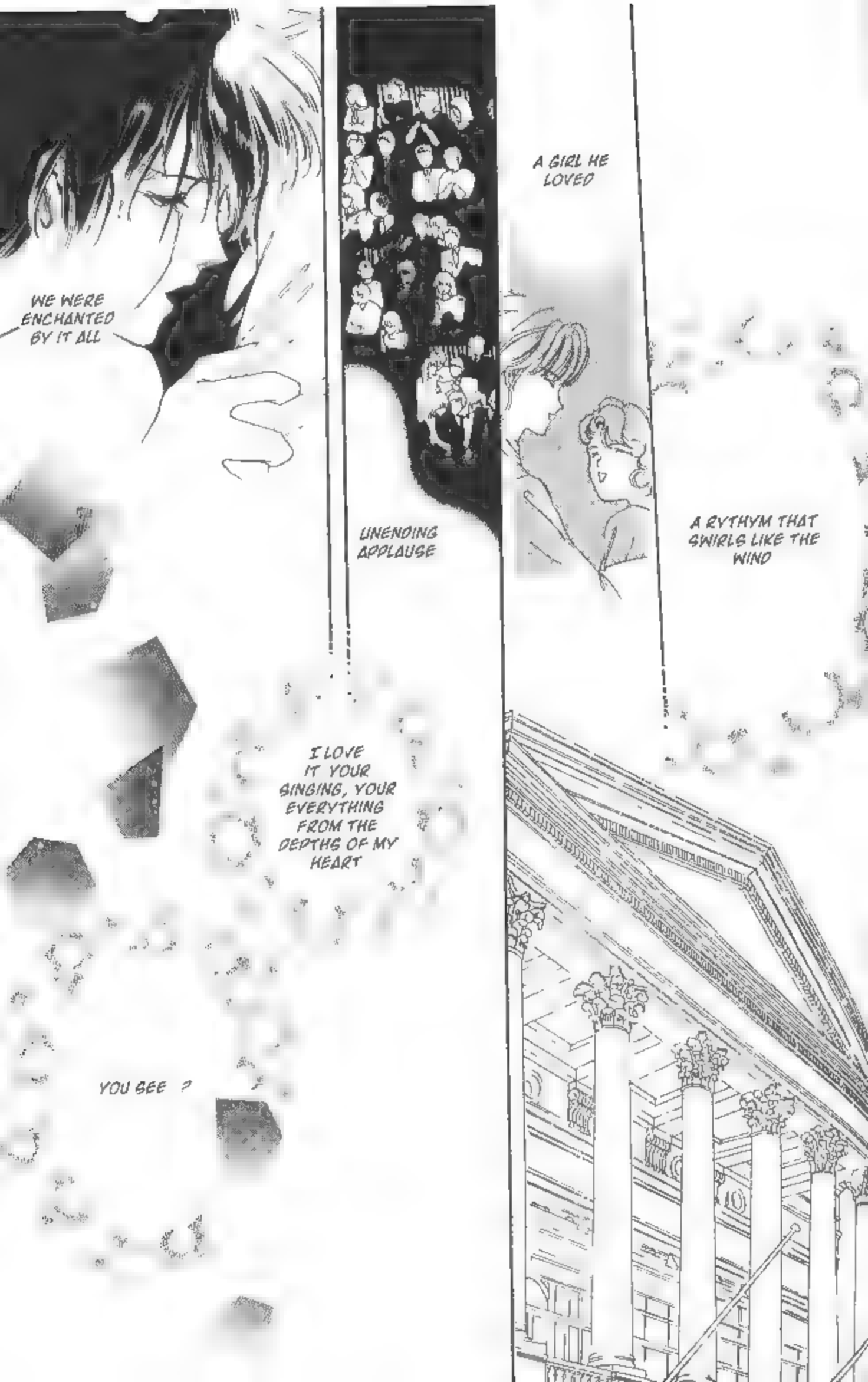
MY PRECIOUS MARY

THE PRIMA DONNA THAT I LOVED

YES.

I LOVED HER MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD.


THIS ONE HAD TO BE THE BEST
HMPH
OF ALL THE SONGS I'VE SUNG


WE WERE ENCHANTED BY IT ALL
UNENDING APPLAUSE
A GIRL HE LOVED
A RYTHYM THAT SWIRLS LIKE THE WIND
I LOVE IT YOUR SINGING, YOUR EVERYTHING FROM THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART
YOU SEE ?

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA ,

LOVES YOU.

HEY, MIYAGI! THEY SAY THAT THE NUMBER OF LUCIFERS IS INCREASING!

AND YOU CAN BET YOUR LUCKY PENNY *HE'S* GOING TO BE ONE OF THEM SOON!

WHO ELSE?! CHIHAYA!

EXCUSE ME? WHO'S GOING TO BE A WHAT?

YOU *KNOW* HE'LL TURN INTO A LUCIFER!

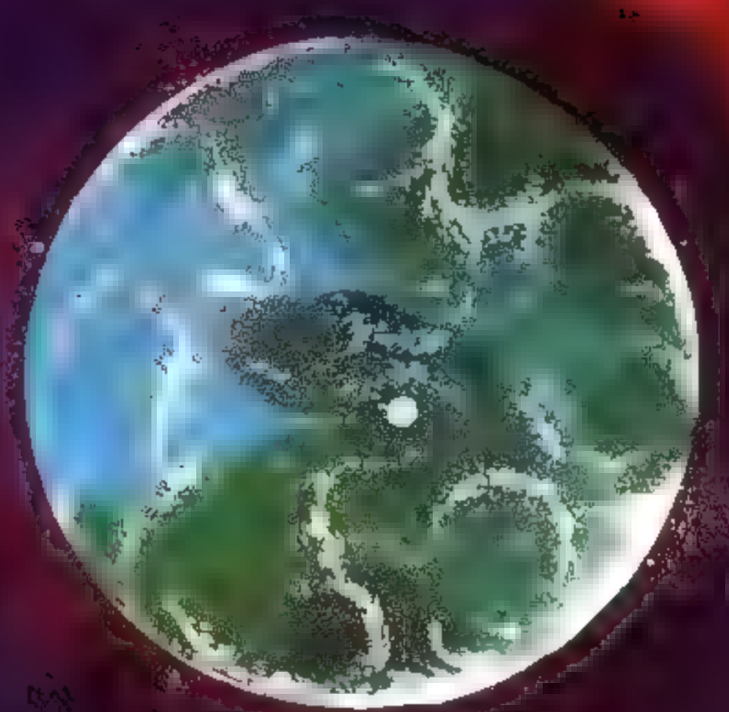
Lucifers, Fallen Angels.

ARMED ANGELS ATTACK

The beings of the planet Eden, also known as "Angels," have been watching over the third planet from the sun, Earth, for over 5 billion years now.

Save for the single jet-black angel, Chihaya, all of these beings possess pure white wings.

About the time when Earth entered the 21st century, refugees coming to Earth from Eden, also known as "Lucifers," began to increase in frequency. It was a most unexpected event.



IF YOU WANT TO EAT GOOD MEALS, WE'LL HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER.
YES, SIR!
HERE'S THE SHOPPING LIST, AND HERE'S THE MONEY BE CAREFUL WHILE YOU'RE OUT THERE
BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS MADE US DELICIOUS FOOD
BUT I'LL STILL DO MY BEST.
I'LL GET THAT MYSELF
NO, NO, NO I'M NOT ABOUT TO TRUST YOU WITH THE FISH
YOU STILL HAVE ANOTHER LIST?
HERE, LET ME GET IT FOR YOU!
WELL, THIS IS JUST MY HOBBY

OKAY THEN IT'S KAGETSUYA OFF TO THE HARBOR.
AND CHIHAYA TO THE MARKET!
I'D BETTER HURRY TODAY WE'RE SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE CALL FROM VALHALLA
CHIHAYA?

UM, EXCUSE ME?
ARE YOU CHIHAYA?
HUH?
SORRY, MY DEAR, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE MISTAKEN ME FOR SOMEONE ELSE
OH MY! I'M SO SORRY!
GOODNESS!
LOOKS LIKE RUNNING AROUND GUESSING ISN'T DOING ME ANY GOOD!
WH WHO IS THIS GIRL?
CHIHAYA? CHIHAYA!
WHERE ON EARTH COULD HE BE?!
UH, I'M RIGHT HERE

WELL, DO YOU KNOW WHERE CHIHAYA COULD BE?
EXCUSE ME?
ARE YOU--
OH, I'M SORRY MY MISTAKE
REALLY? YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT CHIHAYA?
CHIHAYA!
OOPS! WRONG PERSON!
DARN IT! WHERE COULD HE BE?!
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE IN MY LIFE!
SHE'S SEARCHING FOR ME?
BUT WHY?

SO WHY IS SHE LOOKING FOR ME?
NO! I'VE DEFINITELY NEVER MET HER BEFORE
I FINALLY FOUND YOU!
I DON'T REMEMBER--
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, CHIHAYA!
I'M ELVIRA

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU'
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
AN EMERGENCY SIGNAL!

IT'S STILL TOO EARLY FOR OUR REPORT
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?!
THIS IDENTIFICATION NUMBER BELONGS TO LORD RAPHAEL!
IT'S ON THE SPECIAL LINE FROM VALHALLA!
LONG TIME NO SEE, KAGETSUYA

FEELS LIKE HE CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME IT'S UNSETTLING.
SHORT HAIR SUITS YOU
STILL JUST AS ELEGANT AS EVER
IT HAS BEEN AGES, LORD RAPHAEL
SOMETHING ABOUT HIM...
NOT THAT I'VE DONE ANYTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT
I TAKE IT YOU'RE GETTING ALONG WELL?

THINGS HAVE BEEN RUNNING SMOOTHLY HERE
NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER CHECKERS.
HUH?
OH! Y-YES!
YOU MEAN WITH CHI-HAYA?
WE'RE JUST DOING OUR JOBS I'M CHECKING THE EARTHIAN FOR MINUS POINTS, WHILE CHIHAYA IS CHECKING FOR PLUSES.
WE'RE HIDING OURSELVES AWAY BECAUSE CHIHAYA HAD HIS WINGS SEEN LAST YEAR IN HONG KONG AND HAWAII
IT REALLY WORRIES ME
OH! THEN THERE WAS THAT INCIDENT WHERE HE WAS CAUGHT BY THAT WEIRD JAPANESE JOURNALIST
UH, LORD RAPHAEL?
OH, EXCEPT YESTERDAY, WHEN CHIHAYA BURNED HIS TONGUE
BUT ALL IN ALL, WE'RE DOING FINE

ER, WHAT'S SO FUNNY, SIR?
HEH HEH
DID I SAY SOMETHING STRANGE?
GO RIGHT AHEAD, KAGE-TSUYA
NO, PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
B-BUT, I MESSED UP AND HE BURNED HIS TONGUE! HE'S REALLY SENSITIVE TO HOT THINGS.
LOOKING AFTER HIM?!
OH, JUST THINKING HOW SWEET IT IS THAT YOU'RE LOOKING AFTER HIM SO WELL
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, SIR?
YOWCH!
YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HOT PORTAGE GETS?!
I'M THE ONE WHO SERVED THE SOUP WHEN IT WAS STILL TOO HOT AND IT WAS PORTAGE! PUMPKIN, NO LESS!

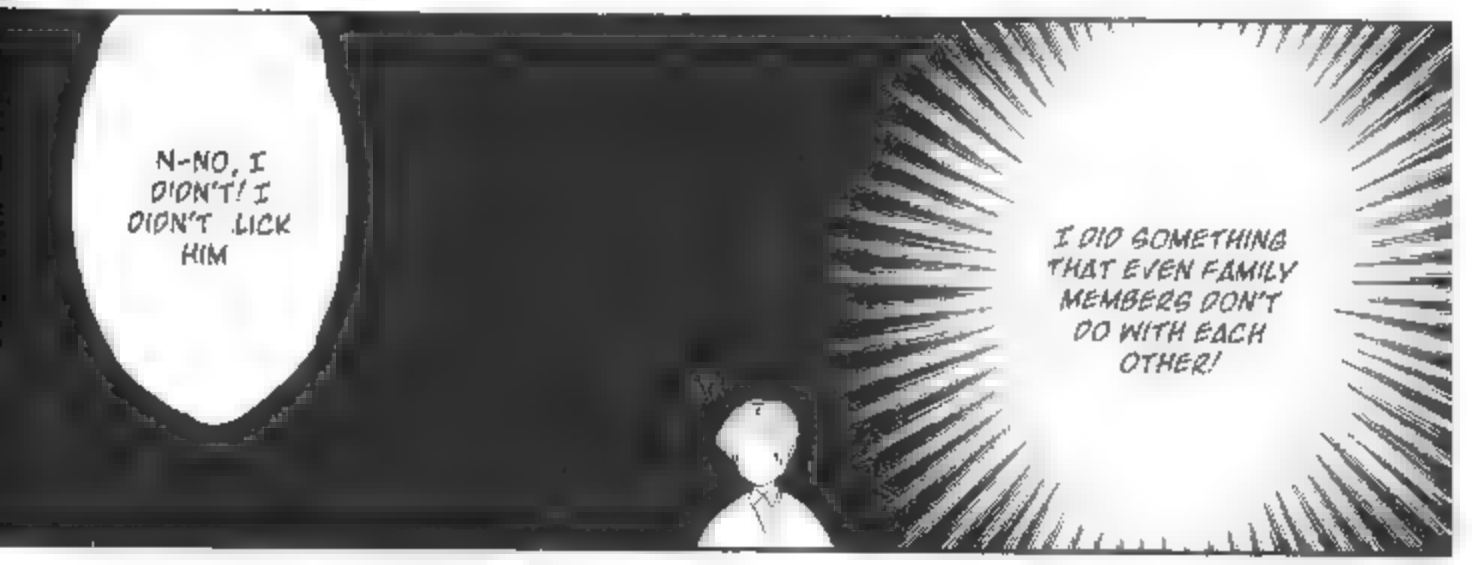
OH NO!
THE SOUP IS TOO HOT!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
I'M SO SORRY! DID YOJ BURN YOURSELF?
ITH NUFFIN, THORRY
It's nothing, sorry
EVERY-THING OKAY, CHIHAYA?
SHUT JP AND LET ME SEE IT
HEEY! UM FINE!
I'm fine!
NOW KEEP YOJR TONGUE OUT
YUP, IT'S A BURN ALL RIGHT.
THOO CHUCH ME!
Don't touch me

UH, KAGETSUYA? YOU DON'T NORMALLY LICK PEOPLE'S TONGUES, RIGHT?
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
カカカ
THAT SORT OF LOOKED LIKE, JH

HUH?

I SEE SO YOU LICKED HIS TONGUE?

IT'S SOMETHING YOU DID BECAUSE WE'RE LIKE FAMILY, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T NORMALLY DO IT
RIGHT.


N-NO, I DIDN'T! I DIDN'T LICK HIM
I DID SOMETHING THAT EVEN FAMILY MEMBERS DON'T DO WITH EACH OTHER!

Typically anyway
THAT'S AN ODD WAY TO FRENCH KISS SOMEONE
OH, IS THAT SO?
I COULD NEVER TELL THAT TO LORD RAPHAEL!

IF THERE WERE, IT'D BE THE DEATH PENALTY!
THERE WERE NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES!
I WAS JUST HEALING HIM!
BUT I DIDN'T DO THAT, SIR!
I LICKED IT TO HEAL IT
J-JUST THE VERY TIP OF HIS TONGUE WAS RED, SO
NOBBLE
FRENCH..
.KISS?!
OKAY THEN NO REASON TO GET UPSET
I I DIDN'T LICK HIM
SO THAT'S WHY YOU LICKED HIM?

UH, LORD RAPHAEL? IS THIS THE ONLY REASON YOU SENT THAT EMERGENCY SIGNAL?
EXACTLY THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU THE WIFE
YOU REALLY ARE LIKE A WIFE TO CHIHAYA
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WIFE?! I'M THE ONE LOOKING AFTER HIM!
NO, I HAVE MUCH MORE PRESSING ISSUES TO DISCUSS WITH YOU
I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR INVESTIGATIONS, BUT WE HAVE A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU WE NEED YOU TO FIND A LUCIFER FOR US.
NO, THAT'S ONLY FOR THE WORST OF THE WORST
Anyway
BUT AREN'T REFUGEES USUALLY EXILED FOR ETERNITY AND REMOVED FROM THE OFFICIAL FAMILY REGISTRY?
WAIT, WHO WAS IT?
BUT TO HAVE TO PURSUE THEM EVEN AFTER EXILE THAT MUST MEAN

FIRST OFF, LORD MICHAEL AND LORD RAPHAEL ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION.
OF ALL THE ARCHANGELS
WHO DO YOU THINK IT WAS?
SOMEONE VERY CLOSE TO US
ONE OF THE SIX ARCHANGELS.
WHAT? THAT CAN'T BE!
LADY LUCIFEL IS ALREADY DEAD.
.AND LADY GABRIEL IS MARRIED, SO THAT TAKES HER OUT
LORD URIEL IS A CHECKER FOR THE MINUSES, SO HE DOESN'T LIKE THE EARTHIAN.
THAT JUST LEAVES

HE'S THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE PLUS CHECKERS!
YES IT'S SERAPHIM
NO WAY! YOU MEAN IT WAS LORD SERAPHIM?!
LORD SERAPHIM!
I HEARD YOU CHOSE TO BE A MINUS CHECKER, KAGETSUYA

YES, SIR
I DESPISE THE EARTHIAN
. HE STILL LOOKED SO DISAPPOINTED WHEN HE SAID THAT
I NEVER REALLY TALKED WITH HIM MUCH, BUT...
DO YOU MEAN THAT YOJ DON'T BELIEVE IN THE SYSTEM, LORD SERAPHIM?
KAGETSUYA, A CHECKER ISN'T SUPPOSED TO THINK LIKE THAT, WHETHER THEY BE PLUS OR MINUS
YES, YOJ'RE RIGHT ..
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO SAY SUCH A THING
BUT I LOVE THE EARTH

I BELIEVE THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TO ORGANIZE A SEARCH PARTY AND ASSEMBLE A SPECIAL PROJECT--
TWO AGAINST LORD SERAPHIM?!
ALL WE ASK IS THAT THE TWO OF YOU TRACK HIM DOWN
SO FAR, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO PINPOINT THE LOCATION OF HIS DESCENT
HE WAS THE MOST GENTLE PERSON I HAD EVER MET
WE HAVE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS?! WE'RE DEALING WITH LORD SERAPHIM HERE!
JUST THE TWO OF US?! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
I NEVER THOUGHT LORD SERAPHIM WOULD BECOME A LUCIFER.
YOU TWO HAVE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS TO FIND HIM IF YOU DON'T--
WELL, I'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.

KAGE-TSUYA!
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN PULL IT OFF ON OUR OWN!
TOKYO
LORD RAPHAEL!
HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SERIOUS!
THIS IS CRAZY!
YOU WAIT RIGHT THERE, ELVIRA
I'M GOING TO GO LOOK FOR HIM
IN THE MEAN-TIME
HELLOOOO! KAGETSUYA, I'M HOME!
THAT'S FUNNY WONDER WHERE HE IS?
OKAY!

KAGETSUYA? WHAT'S KEEPING YOU?
ひなこ
WHAT, YOU GOT A SIGNAL? TODAY, WE WERE SUPPOSED TO--
HEY, EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
LORD SERAPHIM'S BECOME A LUCIFER.
WHAT?! LORD SERAPHIM?! B-BUT WHY?!
THEY'VE BEEN INCREASING IN NUMBERS AS OF LATE
MORE AND MORE PLUS CHECKERS ARE BECOMING LUCIFERS
PLUS...?
THAT MEANS YOU COULD BECOME ONE, TOO!

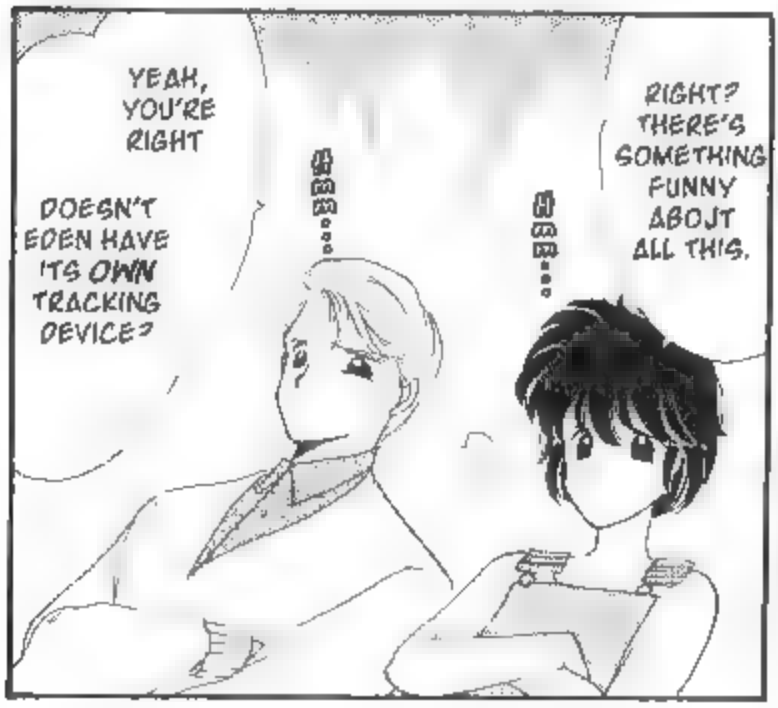
I'D NEVER BECOME A LUCIFER! WHY WOULD YOU EVER THINK THAT?!
CHI-HAYA
I'D NEVER TURN!
I LOVE THE PLANET EARTH
BUT I'LL ALWAYS LOVE PLANET EDEN MOST OF ALL!
.OF GREEN AND BLUE, JUST LIKE THE EARTH
OUR BELOVED STAR .
OUR DISTANT HOMELAND

I JUST CAN'T SHAKE THIS ODD FEELING I HAVE
. I'M SORRY
I SPOKE WITHOUT THINKING.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, IT WILL ALWAYS BE MY BIRTHPLACE
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
EVERYTHING'S BEEN ARRANGED

I SEE
ALL POINTS GATHER TO THIS SPOT
CHIHAYA, KAGETSUYA, ELVIRA
.. AND SERAPHIM
I AM CERTAIN THAT TWO OF THEM HAVE MADE CONTACT
I WAS ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY GUIDE THEM TO THE TOWN WHERE SERAPHIM WAS STAYING
BUT ABOUT CHIHAYA
I WONDER IF HE'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE HIS FATE OF BEING "BLACK"
HANDLE IT OR NOT, FATE OR LIFE
I KNOW HE WON'T GIVE UP HALFWAY

ぽっぽっ
I GOT AN IDEA, KAGE-TSUYA!
WE SHOJLD BE ABLE TO FIND LORD SERAPHIM EASILY IF WE USE THE WAVE TRACER TRACKING DEVICE!
TRACKING DEVICE ? YOU'RE RIGHT!

IF WE INPUT LORD SERAPHIM'S DATA FROM THE SYSTEM AT HEADQJARTERS, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND HIM IN NO TIME!
ALL ANGELS SEND OFF A DIFFERENT SIGNAL FROM THEIR WINGS


YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
DOESN'T EDEN HAVE ITS OWN TRACKING DEVICE?
RIGHT? THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOJT ALL THIS.
HM...
HM...

BUT WAIT A MINUTE!
IF IT'S SO EASY TO FIND HIM, THEN IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BE A REFUGEE

THEN THERE'S EVEN MORE REASON
TO THINK THAT VALHALLA SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND HIM THEM-SELVES!
YEAH, VALHALLA SHOULD HAVE ONE
IT WAS PART OF REGULATIONS TO HAVE THEM KEPT IN THE MOTHER SHIP OF THE ORBITING BASES.
RIGHT! LIKE THEY'RE CHOOSING NOT TO LOOK FOR HIM ON PURPOSE!
LIKE THEY'RE INTEN-TIONALLY OVER-LOOKING IT
HOW ODD IT'S ALMOST LIKE .HOW DO I PUT IT?
BUT WHY?!
WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SEND HIM TO EARTH ONCE HE BECOMES LIKE THAT.

WE NEVER KNOW IF, PERHAPS, WE'LL BE THE NEXT TO FALL PREY TO THE DISEASE
HIS DISEASE ISN'T CONTAGIOUS, THOUGH
SOMETHING IN YOUR COFFEE?
NO, BLACK IS FINE
ARE YOU SAYING YOU HATE THE EARTH, RAPHAEL?
NOT THAT IT WOULD AFFECT ME.
SEEMS LIKE THE CANCER THRIVES IN THOSE WHO LOVE THE EARTH IF ENOUGH BAD CELLS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE BODY, THE ORGANISM DIES
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT MY WIFE, ABOUT GABRIEL. IT'S YOU, LORD MICHAEL.
WOULD YOU STOP SHOWING OFF HOW MUCH YOU'RE IN LOVE?!
MAKES ME WISH I WERE MARRIED TOO!
IT'S NOT REALLY THAT, IT'S JUST THAT THERE'S SOMETHING I LOVE FAR MORE.

HEH HEH
YOU'RE THE ONE I LOVE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD
...!!
HAD YOU THERE FOR A SECOND, DIDN'T I?
Heh
IT WON'T BE LONG.
BEFORE ELVIRA
WILL PULL THE TRIGGER AND SET THINGS IN MOTION. AFTER ALL, IT'S FOR HER BELOVED.

OKAY THEN, I'LL SEE YOU SOON
SERAPHIM
GO OVER THE HILL THAT'S BY THE LIBRARY, THEN GO STRAIGHT
YUP, THE BRICK HOUSE
YUP, THAT'S RIGHT
どやどやっ
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG, ELVIRA
ANOTHER UNEX-PECTED GUEST GREAT
LOOKING FOR YOU?
ELVIRA WAS WALKING AROUND THE TOWN LOOKING FOR ME
MY APOLOGIES, CHIHAYA I HAD TO MAKE A QUICK PHONE CALL

WHY? YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
NOPE
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE'D EVER MET
I THOUGHT IT WAS KINDA STRANGE, SO I DECIDED TO BRING HER HOME WITH ME

THERE'S NOTHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT ELVIRA! JUST LOOK AT HER!
WOULD A SUSPICIOUS PERSON HAVE SUCH INNOCENT EYES?

DUMMY! IF IT'S STRANGE, THEN YOU SHOULDN'T BRING IT HOME!
BECAUSE IT'S SUSPIC-IOUS!

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK CHIHAYA!
I JUST WANTED HIM TO TELL ME SOMETHING!
SAY WHAT?!
HOW DID YOU BEAT YOUR CANCER?

THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR SO LONG! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP ME!
YOU'RE LYING! I KNOW YOU HAVE IT!
PLEASE TELL ME HOW!
I DON'T! I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT!
SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU HAD CANCER?
MY DADDY MY DADDY HAS CANCER TOO!
HE'S GONNA DIE!
MAYBE HE SHOULD GET A VACCINE OR SOME-THING.
B-BUT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO
NO! ONLY CHIHAYA KNOWS!

I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT AT FIRST, EITHER. I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO SURVIVE FOR SO LONG, BUT--
YOU'RE BLACK, TOO!
HUH? WH-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF CALLING HIM BLACK?!
NOW WAIT JUST A MINUTE! YOU WATCH YOUR MOUTH!
PLEASE! IT'S FOR A VERY, VERY IMPORTANT PERSON!
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH, ELVIRA
SERAPHIM'S ALREADY TURNED ALL BLACK!

SERAPHIM!

HELLO CHIHAYA, KAGETSUYA IT'S BEEN A WHILE

LORD SERAPHIM ? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU--

I HAVE ALREADY TURNED ALL BLACK

EVEN MY WINGS

SERAPHIM!

THERE, THERE, ELVIRA NO NEED FOR TEARS

WHEN THE BLACK FIRST STARTED TO SHOW, I BEGGED MICHAEL
B-BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS! I DON'T HAVE CANCER!
CANCER?!
THE BLACK COMES FROM THE CANCER CELLS.
THIS IS THE TRUE FORM OF A LUCIFER.
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I'M DEAD
HOW CAN IT BE ?
.THAT ONCE I BECAME TOO BLACK TO STAY ON EDEN
THAT HE'D LET ME ESCAPE TO EARTH

I FELL IN LOVE WITH EARTH AND WITH A HJMAN WOMAN
SHE LEFT ELVIRA IN MY CARE WHEN SHE DIED, BUT I'M STILL AS HAPPY AS I COULD BE
BUT, LORD SERAPHIM!
I'M SURE YOJ'RE AWARE THAT EXILE AND MARRYING AN EARTHIAN ARE THE GREATEST OF SINS!
BUT LOVE IS NOT SOMETHING YOJ CAN CHOOSE
WE..WE WERE GIVEN THE TASK OF TRACKING YOU DOWN
PLEASE FORGIVE ME I'LL BE GONE BEFORE YOJ KNOW IT
I'VE COMMITTED A SERIOJS CRIME I MAY BE PUNISHED
YOJ SHOJLDN'T BE PUNISHED!
I ALWAYS THOJGHT YOU WERE PRETTY WHEN YOJ WERE ALL WHITE, BJT I STILL LIKE YOU EVEN IF YOU'RE ALL BLACK!

"I LOVE YOU NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE!"
HOW LUCKY SERAPHIM IS.
WHY ARE HER EYES SHINING LIKE THAT?
I LOVE YOU NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE!
I STILL LOVE YOU!
ALL THAT AWAITS IS A DARK DEATH.
AND DON'T TRY FOLLOWING US EITHER!
WE'RE LEAVING NOW!
IF YOU WEREN'T INFECTED IN THE FIRST PLACE, THEN WE HAVE NOTHING MORE TO TALK ABOUT!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO TURN BLACK?
THE BLACK CANCER ?
BUT I'M IN PERFECTLY GOOD HEALTH!
SO THAT'S WHY HEAD-QUARTERS OVERLOOKED IT
THE WAY YOU KEEP GETTING YOURSELF INTO TROUBLE, I'M WORRIED HOW YOU'LL BE ONCE I'M DEAD.
SERAPHIM!
TAP TAP

DON'T BE SILLY WOMEN LIVE ON LOVE
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT'LL HAPPEN AFTER YOU'RE GONE
BUT I MAY DIE TOMORROW
AND YOU'LL BE LEFT ALL ALONE
LET'S THINK ABOUT NOW, THEN!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT TEN YEARS FROM NOW OR ONE HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW!
I DON'T NEED TOMOR-ROW!
YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP DENYING THE FUTURE, ELVIRA?
SERAPHIM
IT'S AS MUCH A WASTE OF TIME TO CLING TO THE PAST AS TO HOPE FOR A CURE IN THE FUTURE

BUT WE'RE TIED BY BLOOD
WHAT ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF? I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU
WE'RE FATHER AND DAUGHTER!
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW!
AFTER ALL, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE TOMORROW BECOMES TODAY!
I STILL LOVE YOU!
I LOVE YOU.
...MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE WHOLE WORLD!
YOU ARE MY SHINING STAR.

EVEN IF THEY CALL YOU A MONSTER, EVEN IF IT IS WRONG.

YOU'RE STILL AN ANGEL, AND I LOVE YOU

EVEN IF THAT PERSON IS ALSO A CREATURE OF THE DARKNESS

I WILL BE PROTECTED OF ME BY OTHERS

DARKNESS, THE FEAR THAT YOU BRING

EVEN WHEN DEATH COMES, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF

COME TO ME, DARKNESS.

DUMMY!

A BLACK ANGEL.

I LIKE IT THAT YOU DIDN'T WIN, KAGETSUYA.

HEH HEH HEH!

BUT STILL...

I WAS STILL THE LOSER AND THAT'S THAT. NOW LET'S GET SOME SHUTEYE.

FWAP

I DON'T THINK *ANYONE* WINS AGAINST ELVIRA!

IT MAKES ME SICK TO THINK THAT I LOST TO THAT LITTLE GIRL!

LIKE I'D EVER GIVE IN TO SUCH AN INHUMANE REQUEST!

It's a crime I tell you.

WHAT SORT OF CREATURE IS IT?

AND A LUCIFER.

BUT

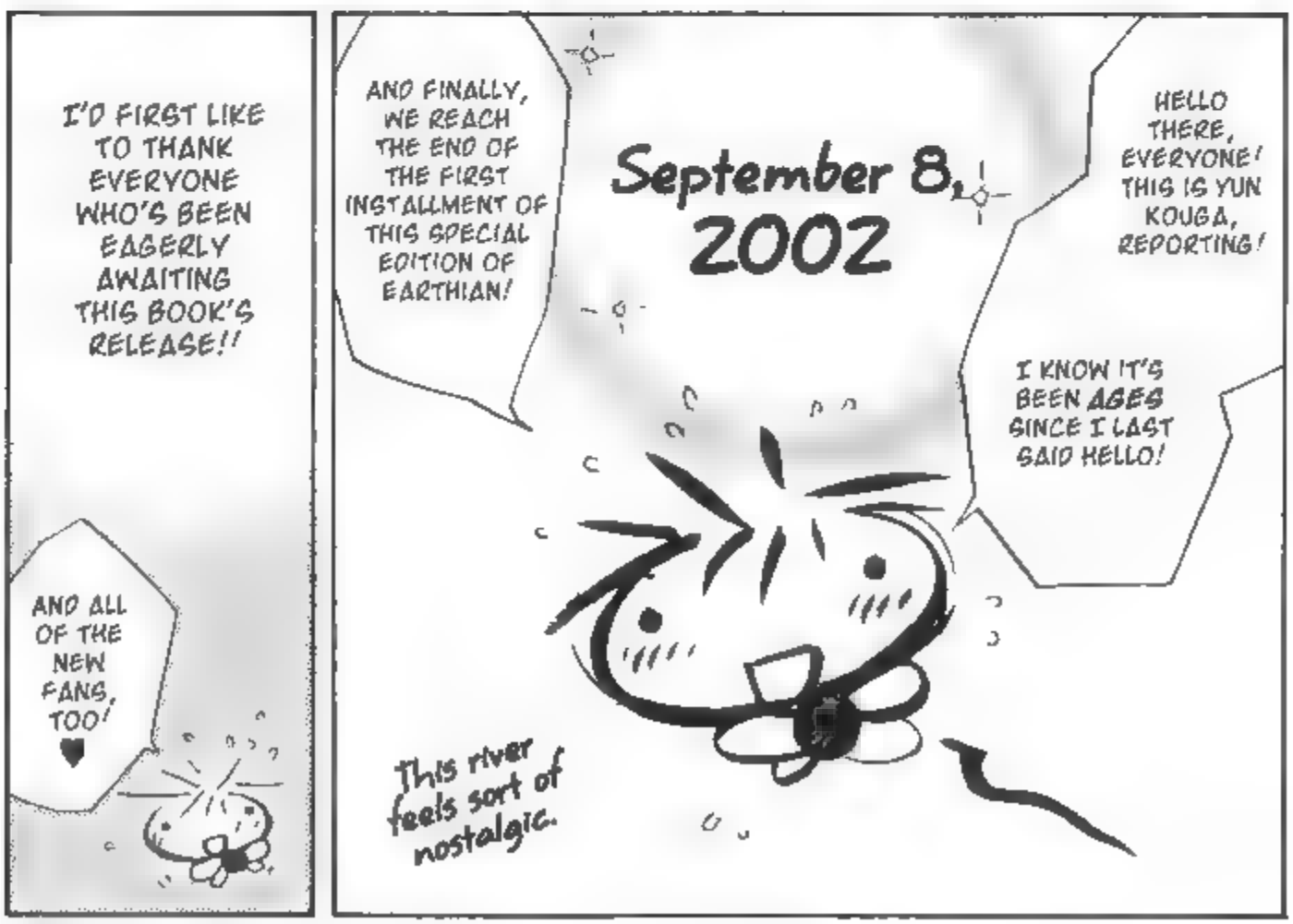
ONE THING'S FOR SURE

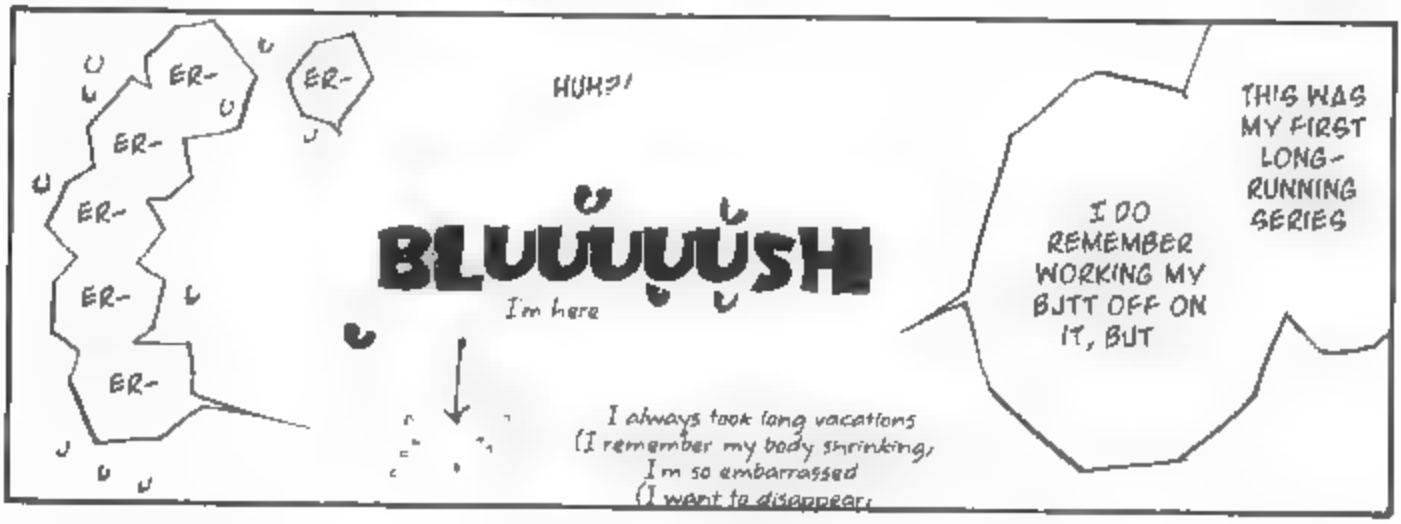
NO MATTER WHO YOU'D CROSS PATHS WITH ON SOME RANDOM STREET CORNER

. THEY WOULD SURELY KNOW .

.THAT YOU WERE AN ANGEL.

RECIPE 2002


I'D FIRST LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO'S BEEN EAGERLY AWAITING THIS BOOK'S RELEASE!!
AND ALL OF THE NEW FANS, TOO! ♥
AND FINALLY, WE REACH THE END OF THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF EARTHIAN!
September 8, 2002
HELLO THERE, EVERYONE! THIS IS YUN KOUGA, REPORTING!
I KNOW IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I LAST SAID HELLO!
This river feels sort of nostalgic.



I DON'T THINK THE ORIGINAL READERS WOULD WANT TO SEE ANY ALTERATIONS MADE ANYWAY
HUH?!
BESIDES
IT WOULD NEVER END
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO REALLY CHANGE ANY-THING
I've gotten letters
HUH?!

Seki

Oh! And please take a look at the official website! http://www.kokonoe.com/ Come and play!

I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A HEARTFELT THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO WAITED SO PATIENTLY FOR SO VERY VERY LONG.

Here it is.

AND SO, I ENDED UP NOT DOING ANY REVISIONS AT ALL.

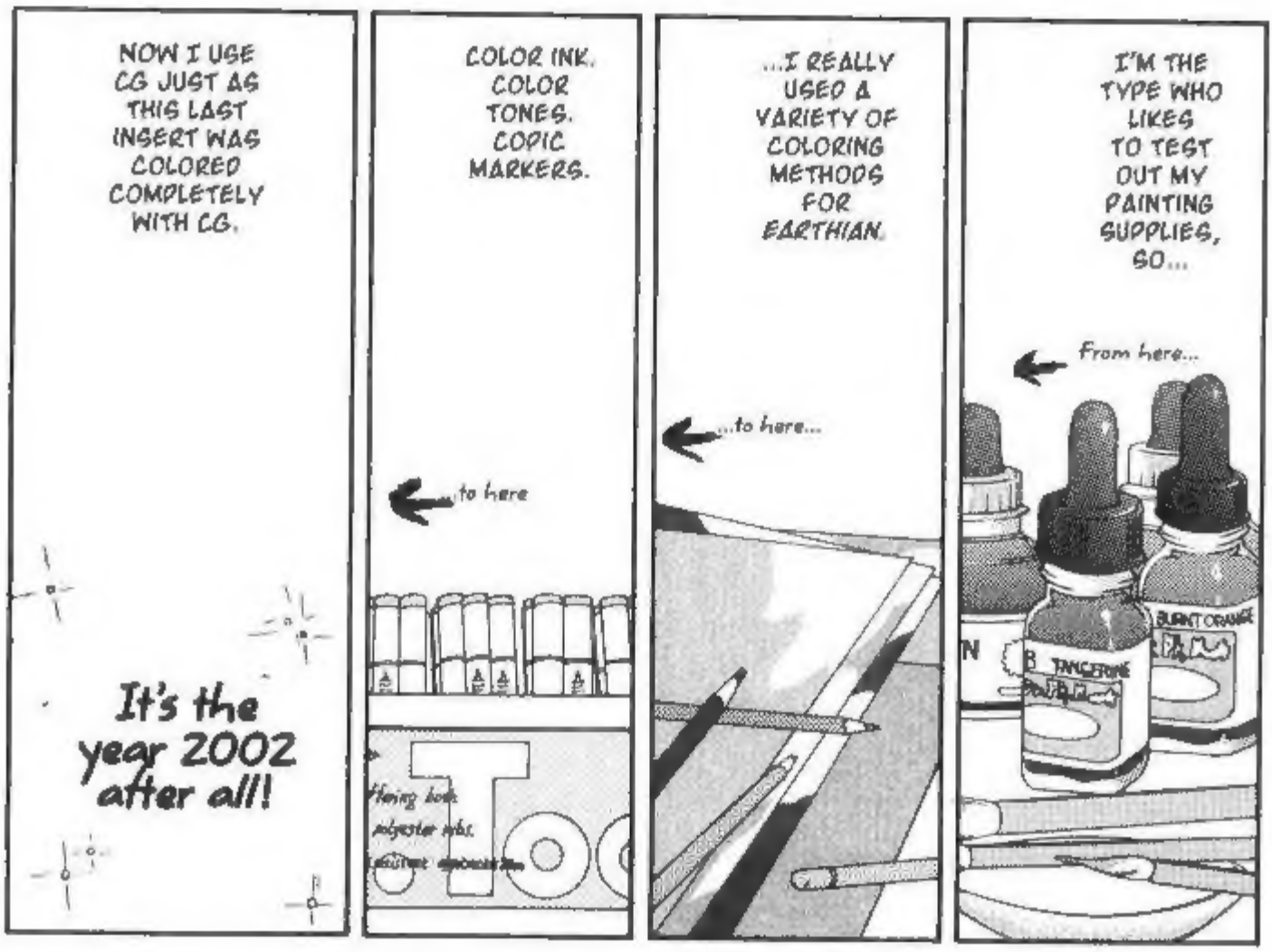
I'M PERSONALLY...

...REALLY AFRAID OF WHAT THE REACTIONS WILL BE...

Doesn't the old manuscript suck?!

NOW, I KNOW A LOT HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS, BUT...

...THE BIGGEST CHANGE OF ALL HAD TO BE THE COLORING!


NOW I USE CG JUST AS THIS LAST INSERT WAS COLORED COMPLETELY WITH CG.
It's the year 2002 after all!
COLOR INK. COLOR TONES. COPIC MARKERS.
...to here
...I REALLY USED A VARIETY OF COLORING METHODS FOR EARTHIAN.
...to here...
I'M THE TYPE WHO LIKES TO TEST OUT MY PAINTING SUPPLIES, SO...
From here...
TANGERINE
BURNT ORANGE

I'M GOING TO KEEP GIVING IT MY ALL UNTIL THE LAST VOLUME SO...
...UNTIL NEXT TIME!
...TO BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO MAKE THIS BEAUTIFUL SPECIAL EDITION FOR EARTHIAN.
ALL IN ALL, I COULON'T HAVE BEEN HAPPIER...
Thank you Yamada-sama and Sekiguchi-sama!
TO BE CONTINUED!
In volume 2!

In the Next Volume of

Earthian™

As Chihaya and Kagetsuya continue to investigate the mystery behind the Black Cancer, they discover a disk of information left behind by Seraphim and a secret about the possible future of the Angels! Meanwhile, the increasingly close relationship between the pair has come under scrutiny by Valhalla, and they are ordered to split up. Kagetsuya winds up with a new partner, and Chihaya is left to decide just what it is he really wants. A working vacation to a sweltering rain forest may leave the pair a little hotter than they expected--and even the ever-practical Kagetsuya might not be entirely sure of his desires anymore!

EARTHIAN VOL. 1

written and illustrated by Yun Kouga